The Long Island FISHERMAN

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NOVEMBER 2nd, 1978 ★ Volume 13, Number 44 ★ *13th Year of Publishing* ★ FIFTY-CENTS

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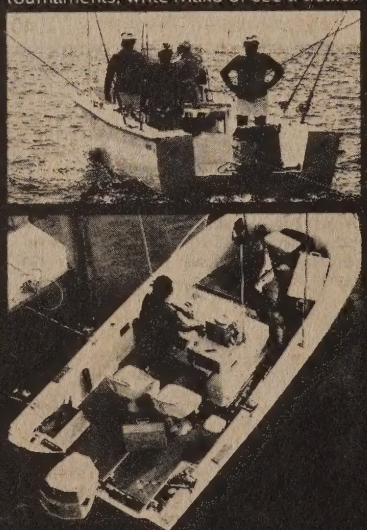

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The Long Island FISHERMAN

The Difference Between Just Fishing and Catching Fish!

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COMING NEXT WEEK:
SEASON FINALE

About the Cover—

Ray Bennett shows a nice five-pound *humpback* seabass caught on a wreck last fall. See Ron Onorato's article *Mixed Bag on the Wrecks* on page 14 of this issue.

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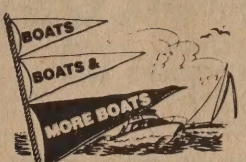

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★ EDITORIAL ★

BEACH BUGGY BAN THREATENED AT MONTAUK

Recently we were reading the weekly fishing reports in a local eastern Long Island newspaper, *The East Hampton Star*, and they alluded to the fact that Johnny Kronuch of Johnny's Bait & Tackle in Montauk had refused to give them a report about the surfcasting because Johnny wanted to protest the paper's editorial on beach buggies. Having thus had our appetites whetted, we requested a copy of the subject editorial to find out what the furor was about. Excepts from it follow:

"We have been asked by several outraged readers why the Town does not do something to curtail the practice of joy-riding on the ocean beach, regulation which they thought a majority of local residents must surely favor. Maybe they do; maybe not. But there is an answer to the question.

"We start with the premise that the Board basically means well; its members will generally do, however slowly, if they can, within legal and financial limits, what they believe a majority of the voting public wants. But they do not always know what the majority wants. So they heed the view whose adherents pack their meetings, send them letters, and sign petitions in the greatest numbers.

"People who do not want regulation of beach traffic happen to be very well organized, in such groups as the Long Island Beach Buggy Association and the Bonac Beach Casters Association. That presumably is why the Board thereafter did nothing. But it is likely that a group favoring regulation, if there were such a group, could circulate a petition and gather over 1,000 votes on it. Perhaps our outraged readers could start a group, or persuade an existing one like the Group for America's South Fork to take up the issue.

"We agree it is time the Town banned beach traffic, except for haulseining trucks, both because the number of joy-riders has grown so large as to ruin the privacy and enjoyment of the far greater numbers of sunbathers and picnickers who proceed on foot, and because some of them cannot restrain themselves from the already illegal practice of barrelling up and down the dunes when no police are around to restrain them.

"So, outraged readers, organize! Petition! Write letters! Pack Town meetings!" Rep. from E.H.S., 10/5/78.

The editorial is so ridiculous that one can only wonder what is behind the campaign of the E.H.S. Surely their response couldn't be a result of the complaints of three or four "outraged readers?" One would expect that a paper of their size would need a minimum of *at least* six or seven complainers to take such drastic action. And we don't fall for the bait that the commercial fishermen are behind this, either, despite the exclusion of haul seine crews in the proposed ban. We just don't believe, despite their differences, that any haul seiner would deny others the right to fish a beach as long as they don't interfere with the operation of the net. In fact, surfcasters have always been used as "bird dogs" by the haul seiners and gill netters—which is the root of their social conflict. But that's another subject.

The subject in this case is what is the motivating force behind the proposed ban? All we can think of is the small, but vocal, group of east enders who are perpetually striving to turn eastern Long Island and her bountiful shore line into their own private country club, to the exclusion of all others. This is the same gang that pushed to make the east end a new county, seceding from Suffolk. If they were ever to succeed, the first action they'd take would be to erect a stone wall ten-feet-high, with *"No Trespassing—Private Preserve"* signs adorning the sides. And so as not to destroy the economy by discouraging summer rentals by the "tourists," they'd still allow you to rent a post office box for a few thou' a year. But don't try to fish from "their" beaches, or take "their" fish from "their" waters ...that's only for the elite locals to enjoy.

Make no mistake about it though, by underestimating the influence of the E.H.S. and the East Hampton Town Board. Jointly, they can act to further limit the ever-dwindling beach access for today's surf fisherman. Nor should we overlook the plea for an organization like the Group for America's South Fork to mobilize the fight against sport fishermen and their beach buggies. This well-financed group of east enders is one of those environmental "against" organizations: they may not know what they're for, but they usually know what they are against. Oh, by the way, the Executive Director of the G.A.S.F. is Ms. Nancy Goell. Funny how her name keeps popping up whenever the rights of sport fishermen are threatened, isn't it?

(Continued on page 32.)

CHUM LINES

PARK COMMISSION RESPONDS TO EDITORIAL

Just a short note to express Bob Ott's and my appreciation for your kind commentary in the October 19 issue of The Long Island Fisherman.

We certainly realize that there are many problems ahead of us and you can be certain that we will make every attempt to correct them to the satisfaction of the majority.

Thanks again for your kind comments—they are truly appreciated. **John G. Sheridan, General Mgr., L.I State Park & Recreation Com.**

GILLNETS ON NORTH SHORE

While fishing for blackfish at Crane's Neck on Saturday (9/30/78) I watched a center console craft setting a gillnet. I had been under the impression that gillnetting was illegal in this part of the Sound. Do you know the legality of it? I'd like to know because I had my worst blackfishing day in weeks and I blame it on this commercial operation. **Glen Musano, St. James, N.Y.**

To the best of our knowledge, there is no laws against gillnetting in the Long Island Sound. But it is doubtful that they caught many blackfish in a gillnet in any case. More than likely, the poor fishing you experienced was a matter of the gillnet spooking the fish. **Scott S.**

Pass It On...

IGFA TO MAINTAIN SALT-WATER FLY ROD WORLD RECORDS

Effective immediately, the International Game Fish Association will be keeping saltwater fly rod world records as a result of an agreement with Salt Water Fly Rodders of America, International.

Taking responsibility for saltwater fly rod records is part of IGFA's expanded program to become the center of record-keeping activity for all anglers worldwide. The program got its start when **Field & Stream** Magazine turned over its freshwater record-keeping system to IGFA in March, 1978.

Mr. Fred Schrier, founder and chairman of Salt Water Fly Rodders, headquartered in Cape May, New Jersey, stated that the organization has been maintaining records over the years as a service to anglers, and that their main interest is to promote the sport of fly fishing. "At this point in time," said Schreir, "we felt that the records would receive more international participation and interest if they were maintained by a larger and more diverse organization such as the IGFA."

The Salt Water Fly Rodders, organized in 1966, were the first to attempt to establish ethical standards and angling regulations for saltwater fly fishing. Among the organization's founding members are such fishing notables as Joe Brooks, Charles Waterman, Stu Apte, Harold Gibbs, Bernard "Lefty" Kreh, Lee Wulff, and Mark Sosin, who is world records editor.

"Their records have been meticulously maintained over the years," said IGFA President E. H. Harry, "and we intend to advance the principles originally established by Salt Water Fly Rodders. We will depend heavily on the founders of this organization for advice and counsel."

In a meeting with Harry in September to effect the records transfer, Mark Sosin stated: "We are delighted that IGFA has agreed to accept this responsibility as we believe it will help to promote the sport of fly fishing on an international basis."

IGFA plans to publish the first offficial lists of current saltwater fly rod world records and freshwater all-tackle records in the 1979 edition of its annual **World Record Game Fishes** book, published in the first quarter of the year. These records will be printed in addition to the marine game fish records maintained by IGFA since 1939.

Until further notice, the record application and rules developed by Salt Water Fly Rodders of America, International will be accepted for world record claims.

NEW ENGLAND FISHERIES COUNCIL APPOINTMENT

Harvey B. Mickelson, New Bedford, Mass., has been appointed to the New England Fishery Management Council by NOAA Administrator Richard A. Frank in behalf of Secretary of Commerce Juanita M. Kreps.

Mickelson was appointed to fill the unexpired term of Edward J. MacLeod, Beverly, MA., who resigned. The appointment will expire on August 10, 1979.

Mickelson has been associated with the Seafood Dealers Association of New Bedford since 1962. He served initially as their attorney and has been the Executive Director of the Association since 1972. Mickelson was the

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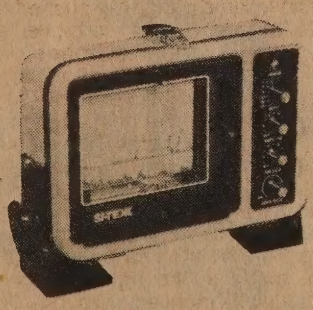

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industry advisor to the International Convention of Northwest Atlantic Fisheries from 1972 to 1976 and has most recently served as a member of the negotiations delegation to the U.S./Canadian fishery talks.

The New England Council is one of eight Regional Fishery Management Councils established by the Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 1976. The Act gives the Regional Councils the responsibility to develop management plans for the fish stocks within their respective geographical areas and to conduct public hearings within their geographical locations to allow interested persons an opportunity to be heard in the development of the fishery management plans. In addition, the Councils review applications received from foreign countries which desire to fish within the Councils' geographical areas.

NEW BOAT MOVIE FROM DU PONT

A new 18-minute motion picture, "When Performance Counts," features high performance fishing and pleasure boats made with the duPont Company's "Kevlar" aramid fiber.

Boats made with the duPont aramid fiber instead of Fiberglas are becoming increasingly popular due, in a large part, to the success offshore racers reinforced with "Kevlar" have enjoyed over the past two years. "When Performance Counts" opens with a sequence on offshore racing boats and includes a scene of Betty Cook winning the world championship in her 38-foot Scarab, "Kaama," at Key West last November.

The film also shows how boats are manufactured with "Kevlar" 49, instead of Fiberglas, using as an example a 25-foot Mako center console fishing boat. It reports on tests made comparing a Fiberglas Mako with an aramid one, and how significant fuel economy can be realized without sacrificing speed.

Also featured are the Excalibur 31K, a 31-foot pleasure boat that can reach speeds up to 70 miles an hour; Wellcraft's new 377 Scarab, patterned after the offshore racing Scarabs; and the ultimate luxury yacht—a 53-foot Magnum cruiser that, among other things, sleeps 10, is fully air conditioned and—powered by twin 1300 h.p. Diesel engines—will reach 50 miles an hour.

Fishermen haven't been forgotten either. Bob Stearns, noted fishing and boating writer, is shown bonefishing in his Hewes Bonefisher on the flats off Key Biscayne with top Keys guide, Bill Curtis, and world-famous tarpon angler, Stu Apte, is seen "jumping" tarpon out of his Maverick boat. In addition, a barracuda is caught from the Mako boat.

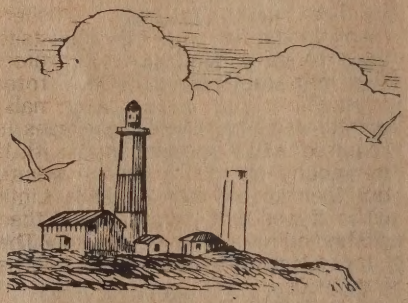
The film depicts boats made primarily for high performance—whether they are used for sheer pleasure or for fishing.

Prints may be borrowed for group showings at no cost by writing: "When Performance Counts," c/o Public Affairs Department, Centre Road Building, duPont Company, Wilmington, Del. 19898. Those requesting the film should write on the organization letterhead and list an alternate date in addition to the prime date.

PATCHOGUE FISHING CLUB SURF TOURNAMENT

The Patchogue Fishing Club had a Fishing Tournament in the surf the weekend of October 9 and 10. The Tournament was at Moriches Inlet, west side. No bass were caught. Lots of small to medium blues. The top five places were:

1. Wuz Maginnes—10 lbs. 4 oz.; **2.** Bob Cromeyn—9 lbs. 5 oz.; **3.** Artie Jones—7 lbs. 5 oz.; **4.** George Dietz—6 lbs. 2 oz. and **5.** Vic Yannacone—5 lbs. 2 oz.



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FISH TALK
with Dr. William A. Muller

ON WHALES AND PUPFISH

THE OCEANS: A TOTAL ENVIRONMENT. If we are ever able to secure the marine environment from the ravages of pollution and uncontrolled exploitation, it will be because people demand that we manage and protect the oceans and their habitats. No doubt fishermen will be at the forefront of that effort, just as they were for the 200-Mile Limit, inland water pollution control, and the conservation of inshore species, such as the striped bass. This sophisticated sense of responsibility has always explained why fishermen have traditionally been concerned about porpoises, whales, walruses, seals and other marine mammals. In southern climes, for example, fishermen joined other environmentalists to goad the states' legislatures to protect the manatee (sea cow). A total management plan for all the animals, plants, and habitats of the oceans is required and fishermen know it! It may sound like the impossible dream; but then so did the 200-Mile Limit when it was first proposed and then pushed editorially in the pages of **The Long Island Fisherman** back in the mid-1960s.

SAVE THE WHALES. The casual harvest practices for whaling have long been a sore point with marine conservationists and marine anglers. Sport fishermen on the West Coast complained bitterly about the common practice of tuna fishermen which involves the netting of porpoises incidental to the harvest of tuna. The "incidental" netting of the marine mammals accounted for about 200,000 dead porpoises per year. Recent reports suggest that not nearly as many porpoises are being killed today, but the waste was, and continues to be appalling. Of course, porpoises are not whales, but the West Coast experience does illustrate how marine mammals are so casually dismissed as unimportant. The International Whaling Commission was supposedly established to set practices and quotas for the harvesting of whales. In June of 1978, the Commission met for the thirtieth time and the results of the meeting were only slightly more protective than past sessions. The International Whaling Commission has long been the target of criticisms from many quarters, and rightfully so: setting harvest limits that, in some cases, exceed the size of the ocean stocks for that species of whale cannot be considered good conservation or management practices; but that is exactly the type of "whale management" that the Commission has been guilty of. One has to ask why whales are harvested at all? Originally, whaling became important because the blubber and other parts of some whales were an important source of petroleum to be used to fuel the lamps of civilization. Of course, aboriginal cultures have used whales as a source of food, but civilized man was interested in less practical by-products. All of this occurred before the discovery of petroleum in deep rock wells. Why then do we harvest whales? Today, much of what is harvested winds up in such significant use as dog food and jewelry.

GREENPEACE. In 1972, an organization was born, with one of its primary objectives being the preservation and salvation of the whales. The organization is based in British Columbia and the people of Greenpeace have literally put their "money" where their mouths are. In this case, they demonstrated a willingness to hurl their bodies in front of the Russian whaling vessels in order to make the point that whales were worth conserving. Perhaps some of you watched a National Geographic special television show last winter which detailed the events which ultimately were responsible for keeping the Russians and the Japanese whalers a minimum of 200 miles out to sea. That did not stop the harvest of the whales, of course, but it did demonstrate both the resolve of people to save the whales and the fact that concerned people acting in concert, could have more impact upon the conservation of whales than a convocation of nations at another ineffective meeting of the International Whaling Commission. That is not to say that whales should not and will not be harvested in the years to come. Those decisions will be made by experts and concerned citizens in future years. Clearly, there is a good case for harvesting whales. Perhaps Arthur C. Clarke (the author of 2001: A Space Odyssey) outlined the best defense for controlled slaughter; i.e., that the whales, if properly managed and "farmed," could provide an important source of food for the people of the world. However, in Clarke's plan, the herds of whales would be nurtured to increase in numbers and only the excess population would go to market. But the **Deep Range** (Clarke's book) was a glimpse into the future in much the same way as 2001, and as such. these decisions and projects will have to be evaluated in the future and we cannot make pronouncements from a pedestal of today's ignorance. Nevertheless, whales are in trouble today. Many species are considered either extinct or near extinction, and one is almost compelled to ask why whales should be treated differently from the once-endangered Whooping Cranes and American Bison.

NEW MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES (NMP). Still, there is hope. The International Whaling Commission has adopted the NMP approach. The approach calls for the selective moratoriums on the taking of species that can be shown to be in jeopardy. One can argue that the quotas set for some species that are still plentiful enough to hunt and the timing of moratoriums are too little, too late; but the concept is sound and can have great impact upon whale management if exercised properly. Of course, the blue whale, the largest animal to ever live on earth (easily reached one hundred tons) is, for all practical purposes, extinct. However, the Pacific Gray Whales, approaching a similar fate, were saved through conservation efforts. The grays were banned from harvest for some time and the stocks have come back sufficiently to allow for limited harvest by Eskimos. Perhaps the greatest controversy today involves the sperm whale. Clearly, the stocks of sperms are in trouble and while the International Whaling Commission has set quotas for their harvest, critics point out that the harvest quotas exceed the ocean stocks and that whaling nations have disregarded size limits. On the other hand, whaling nations have agreed to a moratorium on the harvest of Pacific Sei whales.

FROM MELVILLE TO MOON WALK. Have you ever read Herman Melville's **Moby Dick?** If you have, you know from the descriptions in the book how abundant sperm whales once were. When whaling first began in New England, all whaling was done close to shore. Whalers would watch for the passage of whales from the beach and then launch and set chase. However, it wasn't long before they had made significant inroads in the coastal stocks and they began to build bigger and better ships in order to harvest the whales in far away oceans. Towards the end of the whaling period in our nation's history, many vessels set to sea for three or more years in order to harvest the whales in far away oceans. Towards the end of the whaling period in our nation's history, many vessels set to sea for three or more years in order to harvest whales and fill their holds with the precious barrels of whale oil. The discovery of petroleum in the ground sounded the death knell to what was a dying industry. However, the technology of the Twentieth Century opened up new vistas in the whaling industry. Although there were fewer whales to harvest and the demand for whale products was only a shadow of what it once had been,

(Continued on page 27.)

During the hot summer days, the cooling effect of the surf rushing up your legs is pleasant relief from the heat of the burning sun. The attire for surf fishing at this time consists of little more than a bathing suit and a pair of sunglasses. When the north winds blow, causing the tourists to flee and the migrating fish to feed heavily, the sensation of cold water against the bare skin becomes unwanted. For the die-hards who fish into the winter, the combination of cold, wind, and water can cause problems. Naturally, when the weather turns cold, sensible people respond by adding more clothing. There is a limit to how much clothing a person can comfortably wear. This is especially true when fishing the surf, where constant casting is the normal procedure. Clothing that restricts movement of the arms or binds the armpits becomes a source of irritation. Several layers of lighter clothing provide more dead air space than one heavy coat, therefore furnishing greater insulating ability. Start your dress with a good set of thermal underwear next to your skin. The thin net material in many sets of thermal underwear offer good protection, but in very cold weather or when standing for long periods in icy water, the thick quilted brands will ward off the cold for a longer time.

Surf Side with John Fritz

Dress Warm to Extend the Season

Many surfcasters have found wetsuits to be the answer to keeping warm in the fall.

One condition which must be guarded against is overheating. If a long walk is required to reach the fishing area, walk slow to prevent working up a sweat. The insulating value of your long underwear is greatly reduced if it is soaked with sweat.

The next layer of clothes should be a thick flannel or wool shirt followed by a down-filled vest and topped off with a wool sweater, light jacket, or sweatshirt.

The waterproof top must be fitted over this array of clothing so an extra-large size might be needed. This top is of the utmost importance, for this is the item which presents water from entering the inner layers and stops the biting wind from piercing through to the bone. When purchasing a top, make certain that it is a pull-over type which can be sealed to the neck. Drawstrings at the waist and in the hood are a necessity.

Unless you wade into water over the top of your waders, the two areas of concern in preventing the entry of water are at the neck and at the wrists. Even when the neck strings are drawn closed, water may get in. Water that splashes into the face will trickle down the neck causing goose pimples to form all along the spine. A towel rolled and wrapped around the neck will absorb most of this bothersome water.

The wrist openings are a more difficult area to seal. Most surf men find that by holding the rod in the normal position, between the legs, that water from the incoming waves enters through these openings. This water can eventually find its way up the arm to soak the armpits. The seals at the wrists of the tops I've used fail to prevent this from happening. Several items can be used to close this gap in your waterproof defense. Plastic electrical tape wrapped tightly over the cuffs is one method. Heavy duty rubber bands or the elastic wristlets used for sprains are good substitutes. These wristlets can be obtained in two types: the one piece elastic which is slipped over the hand or the open bandage which is held closed by Velcro strips.

Make sure that any top you buy is of sufficient thickness to stop the wind. This top must also have a hood with a drawstring used to seal the hood around the face. Cold water and a biting wind on the back of your neck is most irritating. The head is a critical area of the body which loses an undue amount of body heat. A wool skull cap with the hood pulled up and held closed with the drawstring will reduce this loss to a minimum.

Those of you who wear wet suits in the cooler weather can ward off the chill on your exposed upper body by wearing a top. You will probably fake out some fishermen wearing waders when all they see is the brightly colored top bouncing in the waves while they are taking a bath just standing in the wash.

There is not too much that can be done to keep your feet warm. Only so many pairs of socks will comfortably fit into your boots. If you cramp your foot, cutting off the circulation, it will only make matters worse. Just make sure not to use nylon, and that at least one pair of socks is made of wool. This is the best all-around material for retaining body heat. If the discomfort becomes unbearable, do a little exercise to get the blood flowing to the extremities.

Which brings me to the most critical area of the body—at least as far as I'm concerned. The hands! Alternating exposure to the wind and water in bitter weather can force the early termination of many fishing trips. Once the hands start stinging or become numb, with subsequent loss of feeling, manipulation of the simple tasks required in the art of surf casting become intolerable. If success is achieved and you are rewarded with a fish, removing the hook can be downright painful.

Some fishermen can function wearing gloves—which, of course, would be the answer. I lose the feel of the minor tasks required, which is especially true at night. Plain rubber gloves worn without a layer of cloth underneath does not help. The best solution I've come up with is to wear a single wool glove on your hand (for right-handed people). Periodically, you can warm the exposed hand by placing it inside the hood to be warmed by the heat of your body. If conditions are extreme, use two gloves, but cut the index finger off the right-handed glove at the first joint, thereby leaving only the tip of one finger exposed to the cold. This can always be warmed in your mouth.

Try to prevent your hands from coming in direct contact with bare metal. If your rod has a metal reel seat, wrap it with black friction tape.

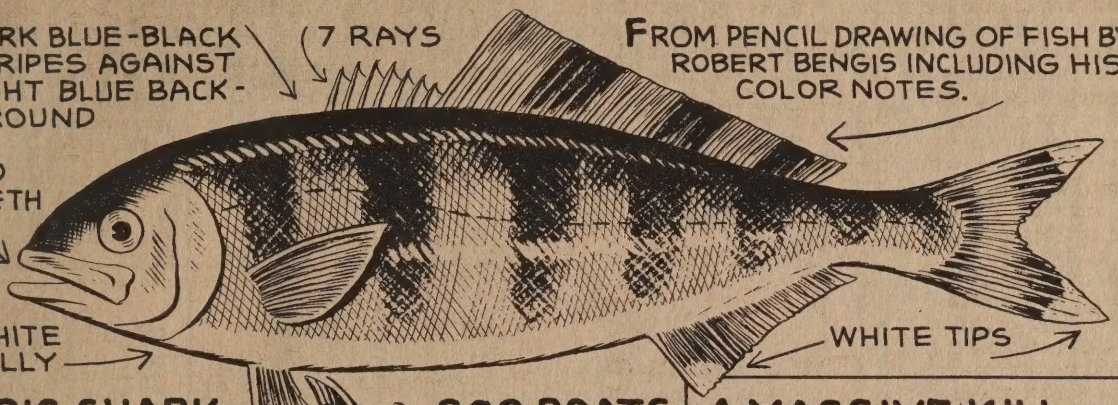
The slime deposited on your hands when handling a fish is worse than an occasional splash by a wave. Since the exterior of your body is a cold wet rubber top, removal of slime is a problem. This can be accomplished, of course, by washing in the surf. If you have had foresight, you may have a rag to wipe your hands.

When the plummeting temperatures of approaching winter cause icicles to form on your guides, remember "Roccus" will still be comfortable in his watery domain for awhile longer. If you are of the mind that the season was too short, bundle up and get down to the beach. That favorite part of the rip which you could not find room at during the season is now deserted—except for those lingering cows with no plug to attack but yours.

FISHING REPORTS

BY FRED GUARDINEER

MYSTERY FISH CAUGHT IN SEPT. IN SOUTH OYSTER BAY BY *"FISHERMAN"* READER ROBERT BENGIS OF N.Y.C. WHO DREW ITS PICTURE FOR ME TO IDENTIFY. I MAKE IT OUT TO BE A *"PILOT FISH"*, PRINTED HERE FOR OTHERS TO AGREE OR DISAGREE.

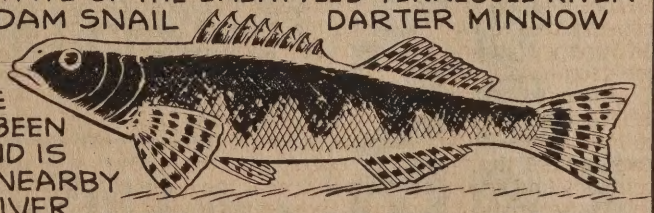

DARK BLUE-BLACK STRIPES AGAINST LIGHT BLUE BACK-GROUND
7 RAYS
FROM PENCIL DRAWING OF FISH BY ROBERT BENGIS INCLUDING HIS COLOR NOTES.
NO TEETH
WHITE BELLY
WHITE TIPS

A BIG SHARK TAGGED BY L.I. FISHERMAN JOE KAICH WAS CAUGHT 5 MONTHS LATER OFF CAPE HATTERAS AND A FIRE ISLAND INLET FLUKE GAINED 4 LBS. IN THE 23 MONTHS IT WAS FREE AFTER BEING TAGGED AND BOATED ACCORDING TO FISH TAGGING COORDINATOR DUSTY SMITH OF BABYLON, N.Y.

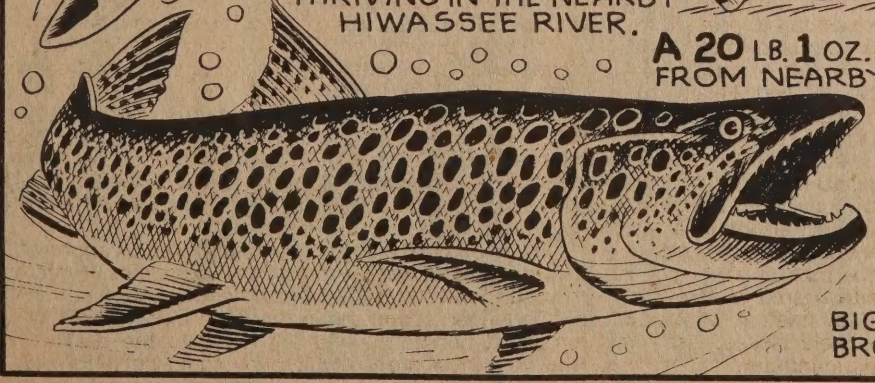
800 BOATS WERE STOLEN FROM LONG ISLAND SOUND DURING 1977 AND ESTIMATES ARE THAT OVER 1000 WILL BE TAKEN THIS YEAR.

A MASSIVE KILL OF 320,000 SMALL WEAK FISH PER DAY BY WATER INTAKE SCREENS OF THE DELAWARE BAY SALEM NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION DURING JULY, 1978 HAS BEEN CONFIRMED AND UNDER INVESTIGATION BY THE AMERICAN LITTORAL SOCIETY AND E.P.A.

ENVIRONMENTALISTS CONCERNED ABOUT THE FATE OF THE EMBATTLED TENNESSEE RIVER TELLICO DAM SNAIL DARTER MINNOW WILL BE INTERESTED TO KNOW THAT THE 3-INCH FISH HAS BEEN TRANSFERRED TO AND IS THRIVING IN THE NEARBY HIWASSEE RIVER.



A 20 LB. 1 OZ. BROWN TROUT FROM NEARBY WESTCHESTER CROSS RIVER RESERVOIR WAS CAUGHT BY ANTHONY MONTEIRO OF MAHOPAC WHO WON THAT CATEGORY IN THE N.Y. STATE GENESEE FRESHWATER FISHING CONTEST. IT IS THE BIGGEST N.Y. STATE BROWNIE IN 15 YEARS.



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3 PRACTICAL FISHING KNOTS

by Lefty Kreh & Mark Sosin

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OLD TIMERS' CORNER

"The way it was..." with Matt Ahern

PARTY BOAT RAMBLINGS

My sixth grade schoolteacher once told me I was retentive. After I had quit wailing and she had wiped away the tears, she told me the word meant only that I was able to recall in clear detail the many things that impressed me long after they happened. Now, in later years, I have to admit she knew something for I find I'm continuously haunted by sharply-etched memories, and especially do I retain with vivid clarity the events of early fishing days. But I often wonder why it is only on the subject of fishing that this quirk is evident. Should I go to the grocery for more than two items, my mind is a veritable blank.

It doesn't take much to trigger these long-retained memories which seem always to be accompanied by minute detail. Take one August morning last summer when I came across two kids snapper fishing from a run-down pier near the Shinnecock Inlet. Now, this is a scene we fishermen have seen innumerable times, and like you it was viewed with nothing more than a passing glance. "Go get 'em, kids," was my only thought until one of the youngsters set the stage by making a certain movement or perhaps it was a sound, which for the life of me I cannot describe, but the instant of its occurrence was enough to release that mental trigger. In my mind's eye, I could immediately see myself and a kid buddy fishing for snappers and small mackerel off the sea wall in Sheepshead Bay away back in the middle twenties.

It is not my intention, however, to write about Sheepshead Bay snapper and mackerel fishing, but rather to relate some interesting things about those party boats that sailed from that port in those days.

Sheepshead Bay was quite a busy fishing port then, more so I believe than it is now, because during the height of the season there were often more passengers than accommodations and competition was not so keen. It was a common sight to see groups of saddened fishermen who had arrived at the last minute and were left stranded on vacated piers, downcast with the knowledge that they must either return home or join kids like me in a little snapper fishing. Nor was there any set quota on how many fishermen these boats could safely carry. (If there was, it was never enforced.) Fishermen eagerly crowded on board boats known to have fish-catching reputations in such a manner that I sometimes thought of sardines in a can. But no one seemed to mind for there were fish a-plenty for all. To my knowledge, no fisherman aboard these boats was ever skunked in those days.

Outside of localities like Canarsie and Island Park (which was then called Wreck Lead or sometimes Queens Waters), plus Freeport, the Battery, Hoboken, and maybe one or two places such as The Bronx—Sheepshead Bay was the only port large enough to handle those thousands of local party boat fans. Out east, Lindenhurst, Babylon, Canoe Place and Montauk were available for those interested in fishing practically virgin water for stripers, weaks, blues, and fluke. There was no Captree Fishing Fleet and there were few party boats at Montauk.

Although there were plenty of autos, there were still many horse-drawn wagons around, and few fishermen were fortunate enough in this change-over period to own private transportation to reach these out-of-the-way places. And no matter how good the fishing was in those spots to the east, not many fishermen had the means to take advantage of it. Some years later, the Long Island RR saw its opportunity and ran their popular Fisherman's Special to Canoe Place and Montauk. Most times, it was standing room only, even though seats were promised for all. The railroad just could not keep up with the demand, but they did their best with what they had. I think one of the best features was the refrigerator car for the fisherman's catch.

Undoubtedly, this innovation led to the commercialization of these semi-rural port areas and to the building up of that distant party boat business. But all in all, most fellows fished locally because of the monetary conditions that existed. The Sheepshead Bay party boat fleet had a captive audience so to speak, and the waterfront was a bustling, noisy place to be sure.

Many fishermen who journeyed to Sheepshead Bay in those days did so via subway-elevated lines, trolley cars, and in what few buses were then available. It was a fairly long hike from the elevated station to Emmons Avenue and I trudged it often carrying my twenty-five cent, two piece bamboo snapper pole.

It was the party boat fleet that appealed to me, though. Whether the snapper fishing was good, bad, or indifferent, I rarely left before most of the fleet returned so that I could check out the day's results. There wasn't any sight so beautiful to me as the many varieties of fish brought back to the docks. I saw sea bass, porgies, blackfish, and fluke in numbers seldom seen today. I sometimes think my chief reason for going snapper fishing in the Bay was to be on hand when those boats returned.

There were many party boats and those I remember vividly were the Glory, Evelyn, Sachem, Au Revoir, Sylph, Effort, Effort II, Effort III, Giralda, Dora, R. C. Lundy, Pilot II, Helen H, America, Elmar, Elmar II, Elmar III, Bijou, Sea Pigeon, Sunshine, Carrie D, and the ill-fated MJR III. (I may tell you about the latter someday if I can ever overcome the shock that still persists every time I think of that foggy Sunday afternoon of May 3, 1936 when I witnessed its sinking and subsequent tragic loss of life.)

Some of these larger party boats like the Sachem, Giralda, Sylph, and Au Revoir, were quite beautiful and were mostly converted cast-off millionaire's yachts. Some of these were coal fired and steam-powered and they made a pretty picture as they glided silently over the sea on their way to the distant banks and wrecks which only ships of such large proportions could reach in assured safety. The Sachem and Au Revoir were each over 180 feet long!

Some of the outstanding skippers I got to know in later years were: Jake Martin, Dave Martin, Chub Martin, Bill Stephens, Gus Rau, Alec Hansen, Harry Phillips, Johnny Michaels, "Candy" Keefe, Joe Ecock, and Fred Wrege. All these skippers were past masters at the fishing game and when one takes into consideration that there were no electronic aids available, that all one had were a compass, a ship's clock, binoculars, and two very sharp eyes, and once you got out there, you were at the mercy of whatever Nature threw at you—it is no wonder I tip my fishing cap in their honor. They were seamen supreme.

Mentioning the Au Revoir recalls the unforgettable day she returned from a Jersey Coast sea bass and porgy trip. It was late one Thursday afternoon when that beautiful ship came up the bay with her siren screaming, announcing to one and all that she had made a record catch. I quickly gathered my rod and fish bucket and scooted across the wooden footbridge that straddles the Bay, and raced along Emmons Avenue, both of us arriving at the pier about the same time.

There were probably seventy-five passengers on board and there wasn't one of those fishermen who didn't have at least one hundred of the largest kind of sea bass and porgies you would want to see. It was enough to take your breath away. Gigantic porgies and huge sea bass were packed in everyone's bag and surplus four to four-and-a-half pound sea bass were lying all over the deck. This was

because there was just no way for the individual fisherman to carry his catch off the boat due to the tremendous weight of so many fish in each bag. These unwanted fish had been left behind for the mates to sell off to the many housewives who arrived daily to buy any surplus catch.

There was so much confusion going on around that I slipped aboard unnoticed and made my way to the stern, actually pushing two-foot-long sea bass out of my path. It was the first time I'd ever been aboard anything larger than a rowboat. I was enthralled. I can still hear the hissing of the steam boilers and smell the pungent odor of escaping coal gas from the funnel. To me, it was like being in another world. I knew, just knew mind you, that some day party boat fishing was going to be a way of life for me. No doubt about it. That giddy feeling was a true as the knowledge that the sun's rising in the East was inevitable.

On the stern were a half-dozen fishermen still cleaning their catch. The sharp-eyed gulls were driving each other into a frenzy with their ceaseless screaming as they whirled and dove for the easy pickings being tossed overboard. I had never seen anything like it, although in later years this scene was slated to be repeated thousands of times for me. One of those fish-cleaning anglers was ex-bantamweight champion, Joe Lynch, who at the time was nearly as popular with fight fans as was Jack Dempsey. I had seen him often enough in the sport sections of city newspapers and in the silent Pathe newsreels of the day. And like all great men, he was kind.

He asked me how many fish I'd caught and when I told him I wasn't a passenger, he said they had fished Beach Haven and that he alone had landed 120 fish. He insisted I take a couple of sea bass and handed over two of the largest and then kindly cleaned them so that I could carry them with ease. I wrapped them in newspaper and happily left the boat and trekked the long haul back to the elevated line, although I actually have no recollection of making this walk, so engrossed was I with my thoughts. I had never seen so many large porgies and sea bass at one time, nor have I since.

This was my initiation to the potential of the party fishing game that awaited me when I "grew up." It is a rare day when I'm out there after sea bass and porgies that I fail to think of the Au Revoir and her record catch. I'm glad I had the opportunity to witness it. It came at the right time.

If you are an old-timer and these columns awaken pleasant memories, drop me a line if you wish—20 Dogwood Road, Hampton Bays, New York 11946. I'd enjoy hearing from you.

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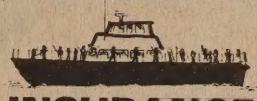
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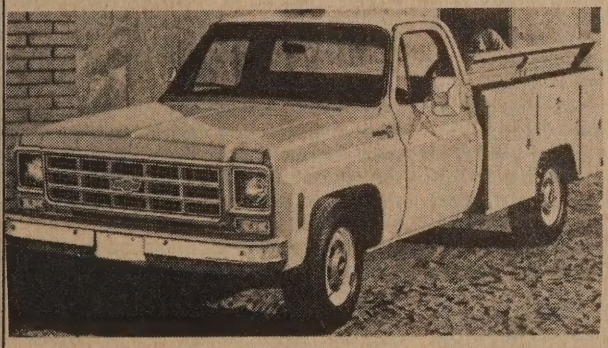

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MIXED BAG ON THE WRECKS

by Ron Onorato

Jumbo porgies like these are quite common on wrecks in late summer and the fall.

The mid-morning sun was well up over the horizon and was really starting to shed some warmth on this unusually cold November day. It was the middle of November, and George Oliver and myself were some twenty miles southeast of Jones Inlet looking for a small wreck in the hopes of bagging some early run codfish. The inshore and open bottom grounds were swarming with dogfish—so fishing the wrecks was the only viable alternative.

The C Loran had put us in the general vicinity of the wreck; so it was just a matter of searching around the area with the depth recorder until we picked it up. After some five minutes of circling around the spot, the recorder showed a sharp jump from the steady 110 foot water level. "Let's get a float over," George shouted and with that, I pitched over a Clorox bottle.

After the float had set, we ran the boat back over the piece to see how it was lying on the bottom. The float had set at the edge of the wreck, with the main portion of wreck a little up-tide of the marker. George took the boat well up-tide of the marker and dropped the anchor. As soon as it hit bottom, he reversed the engines and backed down until we were about fifty feet ahead of the float, and then cleated off the anchor line.

Fortunately, the wind and tide were together, and the anchor made up nicely and the boat sat almost exactly where we wanted it. I flipped on the recorder and from the looks of things, there was a piece of the wreck right off the stern.

We were using standard thirty pound codfish outfits, with two 7/0 hooks baited with fresh skimmers: one a foot above the sinker, and the other a couple of feet above that one. Anticipation ran high as we sent the clams down for the first time. Action was immediate, but unfortunately, it wasn't from the codfish. The lightning sharp raps of small fish told the story. Both hooks had been cleaned in a matter of seconds. The wreck was teeming with perch, or bergalls as they are more commonly called.

"At least the wreck is healthy," George commented as he baited his hooks for the third time. On my next trip down, I got a couple of sharp tugs, but failed to hook the fish. It happened a couple of times more to both of us, and it started us wondering. The hits were definitely not from cod, but they weren't the tiny pecks of the bergalls. More than likely they were from big blackfish that couldn't get the oversize codfish hooks in their mouths.

With that in mind, I removed the large hook on the bottom, and replaced it with a small 1/0 hook and baited it with a tiny strip of skimmer clam, and sent the whole thing back to the bottom. No sooner had the rig settled when those sharp tugs were telegraphed up the line. I sharply set the hook and soon had a fair sized fish bouncing away at the end of the line. A few feet from the surface, a fair sized sea bass came up, and was quickly bounced aboard. In the meantime, George was also hooked up with something and from the looks of his rod tip, it seemed like a nice size fish. We were expecting a big sea bass, but were surprised to see a porgy that looked like a serving tray.

Since it was apparent that there were few if any, codfish on this wreck, we took off the top hook and rigged a second smaller hook closer to the sinker. No sooner had the rigs settled to the bottom, when they were immediately seized by a pair of hungry porgies. We weren't thinking about the cod as long as we had the giant porgies leaping on the baits. Every so often a big mossback sea bass would sneak through and take the clam bait. Even a small three-pound pollack found its way to the skimmer clam.

I'm sure that we could have bailed porgies and sea bass at that wreck all day, but when the tide changed, we drifted off the piece and got into dogfish. We now had a wind against the tide situation; and after three attempts at re-anchoring, we gave up and headed for another wreck that was about five miles back to the west.

Again, the C Loran was right on the money and we picked up this wreck in no time. Anchoring was difficult, but because this wreck was much larger than the first one, we managed to get a piece of it without too much trouble. The rods were still rigged with the bottom hooks from the last time, so we didn't bother to change back to the codfish hooks. Once the baits settled on the bottom, I figured either the porgies or sea bass would leap right on. After five minutes and no hits of any sort, we wondered if the boat had drifted off the piece.

Before George had a chance to

check the recorder, a big cod jumped on the tiny porgy hook. George fought the fish with a loose drag and soon a sixteen pound cod found its way to the fish box. I was about to retrieve my rig and change back to the cod hooks, when a cod grabbed the moving bait. Fortunately, it was a small fish of about seven pounds in weight, and was brought aboard without too much trouble. We found what we were looking for—some nice cod on a wreck. As it turned out, we pulled nine more cod off the piece before we called it a day.

Fishing on wrecks that lie ten, fifteen and twenty or more miles offshore has become one of the fastest growing aspects of sport fishing on Long Island. With the proliferation of C Loran as a staple item on board many private vessels, fishing these wrecks has become a matter of consistency. For the longest period of time, wreck fishing was shrouded in secrecy with only a select few having the knowledge or skill to find these rotting hulks.

What makes these wrecks such productive fishing grounds? In many cases they represent the only obstruction on an otherwise barren bottom. When a boat settles to the bottom—usually under tragic circumstances—a whole new ecosystem begins to flourish. First to appear are the minute marine organisms which, in turn, attract larger animals such as tiny crabs and lobsters, barnacles, mussels, squid, etc. The creatures, in turn, become forage for higher marine life such as bergalls, blackfish, sea bass, and porgies. These, in turn, attract the larger predators such as the cod, pollack, and bluefish.

The inshore wrecks usually hold such species as porgies, sea bass, and blackfish during the summer months, and in the winter and spring hold cod and blackfish. The offshore wrecks usually hold cod the year-round.

Finding the location of wrecks is not as difficult as it may seem. Some of the bigger and established wrecks are marked on Loran charts. The disadvantage to this is that everyone else who has a chart will be able to fish them. Some wrecks are nothing more than sanded-over old hulks; while others are whole vessels nearly intact on the bottom. An indispensable source of locating the small, and difficult to find wrecks are the draggers who regularly work a certain area with their nets. These men can't afford the expense of fouling an expensive net in a wreck; so they mark the location of many of these obstructions, and mark them down so that way they can be avoided at a later date. Then again the best way to get started is to hook up with someone who has done this before and has a working log of Loran numbers.

In order to get the best results from a wreck, you should be prepared with tackle that can be used for any of the bottom feeders that might be on a piece. Always carry an assortment of small hooks for the small bottom fish, as well as the usual compliment of codfish tackle. Small 1/0 hooks rigged just above the sinker will fill the bill for any bottom fish that will come along. If you find them particularly active on a wreck, then you can even use a lighter rod to fish for them exclusively. You should also be well supplied with an ample amount of codfish hooks and sinkers should you find them. It doesn't take long to go through a load of terminal tackle when you start hanging up in the foul bottom of the wreck.

If you find that the rigs are fouling in the bottom, you should stick with the single codfish hook tied about three feet above the sinker. If you start using two hooks, a hooked fish may foul the loose hook and you'll end up losing everything.

Because of its availability, skimmer clam is the most widely used, although not necessarily the most effective bait to use. Fresh conch is by far and away the best bait to use when wreck fishing. Removed from the shell and hammered into a pancake-bait, the tough meat is virtually impossible to pull from a hook. This gets around the bergall problem, and sometimes it can really be a problem. Usually the perch are heavy when there are but a few cod on a wreck. Fresh bergall is the codfish's favorite meal, and when the cod are heavy, you'll find the wreck virtually devoid of perch. If the bergalls are heavy, and then for some reason they leave the bait alone—look out, for more often than not, a cod has moved onto the scene.

One thing that should be avoided at all costs is to chum with skimmers. The only time you want to chum is when you're on the open bottom, and there is no holding element other than the cracked skimmer clams. The wreck, however, acts as its own holding element: either the cod are there, or they aren't. By chumming, all you're going to do is get a load of dogfish onto the wreck.

If you're fishing on your own boat, always try to set the anchor in the soft bottom surrounding the wreck, rather than in the wreck itself. This is why you should carefully run the wreck with the recorder, so that way you get an idea where the edge is. If you drop the anchor right in on the wreck, more often than not, you're going to lose the thing. Some enterprising wreck fishermen have come up with a disposable anchor. This is merely some sort of heavy grapple fashioned out of steel rods, which is deliberately hung into the wreck. The anchor is then left on the wreck after the day's fishing. After you're through, you put the boat into gear and shorten up on the scope of the rope. Usually the grapple breaks at the weld or the rope breaks near the knot where it was tied. That is why inexpensive line is used for this purpose.

A couple of good marker buoys are about the most indispensable items you'll need next to the Loran unit. All you need is a couple of hanks of crab trap line and some old sash weights or bar bells. Cut the line to the desired lengths and then attach to the sash weights. Old Clorox bottles or anti-freeze jugs are fine for making these markers. Always have a couple of them handy in case you lose one. Never waste a moment when you hit the wreck. Mark it immediately with a float. If you happen upon a nice sized wreck, you may want to mark it with a couple of floats. And then if you're really lucky and you get some fish readings on the machine, drop the float right there.

A trip to an offshore wreck is one of the more exciting aspects of fishing that can be found on Long Island. There is a chance for a wide variety of fish, and seldom, if ever, will you come home empty-handed. One day it will be the big porgies and the next, giant sea bass will fill the cooler, and sometimes it will be the codfish that steals the show, and if things go right—maybe all three.

Georges Oliver with a sea bass and small cod taken from the same wreck in early fall.

ARTIFICIAL VERSUS NATURAL BAITS

by Mickey Chiarenza

My fishing days began in 1941 when my Dad would take me to a rock jetty with a fishing rod of split bamboo, conventional reel; a tar line drop line for me, tar line blackfish hooks, a tin can full of sinkers, a burlap bag for the fish, and most important—a can of lively fiddler crabs. I'll never forget the feel of that first blackfish—all two pounds of him—nearly dragging me off the jetty. When we would fish for flounder, we went out on a party boat and used blood or sand worms to catch the flatties. For quite a few years thereafter, all I knew was the world of natural bait, hooks and sinkers; until one day in the fall, sitting on that jetty, I watched three or four people standing in the surf with chest high waders and casting the longest rods I'd ever seen. It seemed at first as if they were practicing casting, for as soon as the line went out they were pulling it back in again! On a subsequent trip, I noticed a gleam coming from where the sinker would normally be tied to the line. I was puzzled, so I climbed down from the jetty after securing my Uncle's borrowed rod firmly in the rocks and went to take a look-see. I remember sitting in the sand and watching with utter fascination, thousands of questions running through my mind. The casters remained standing in the mild wash, casting and retrieving, casting and retrieving. Whatever it was they were doing sure seemed like fun—but what were they doing?, I asked myself. They can't be fishing, because they never catch anything.

I double-timed back to the rocks and asked my Dad. "Guess they are casting for stripers," as he reared back on a hefty blackfish. "Can't we catch them with fiddlers? What do they look like? What's those shiny hooks they're using?" It all started to pour out and Dad just couldn't answer all those questions. In those days, technical guides to the how's and why's were not readily available as they are today. An occasional tackle manufacturer would issue a pamphlet for a small charge, giving a very general rundown on most popular species of fish. The booklets were designed to take in a huge area of the coastal fishing scene and left very much to be learned. However, I did get a look at a striped bass and learned that they get quite large, larger than a blackfish!

It was about a year later, returning to that same place at the crack of dawn, we noticed four or five surf casters huddled around the front of a car. As we walked past them en route to the jetty, I observed them carefully: the tackle, lures, equipment and clothing. Suddenly my eyes opened wide. There, lashed to the bumper of the car, was the biggest fish I had ever seen! It had stripes! It was white, silver, blue, black, and it was beautiful! From that day on things were not quite the same any more. I grew an unbearable thirst to learn more. Why lures? Why bait? When do you use lures? When do you use bait? Do stripers only take lures? If they are so smart, how could they be so dumb? I didn't know anyone who fished for bass, but I did ask one heck of a lot of questions when I did get the chance down on the beach. I was soon to learn the sport was shrouded with secrecy.

Probably the first fish I ever caught with an artificial was herring, and we used two or three tinseled hooks jigged from a bridge. It was here that I learned the power of a lure. The herring would nibble meagerly at a baited hook but would lash at the gleaming tinsel and sometimes swallow it whole. It was still a mystery to me even then, but I knew it worked. Another fish that I soon learned loved a lure was mackerel. A diamond jig was all you needed. It was on such a trip that I began to experiment: the fishing was slow and the jigging was getting tiring. The boat was supplying spearing as natural bait for those who wanted it. I decided to try it; so I rigged up and lowered away. The response was not immediate but the fish did come—and on bait this time! Now more people were catching mackerel with bait than with jigs! Why? More questions! And just to confuse it all the more, by the time we left for the day, jigs were again doing the job. For quite a number of years these questions and more bothered me and I knew that if I were to be successful at catching stripers, I would have to know the answers.

In time, I learned that stripers and other predators could be taken in a number of methods: lures, natural baits, and combinations of both. There were few lures in those days; the most common were the block tin squids, large freshwater plugs and spinner and worm combinations. Then, as now, you could find the clan that were strictly artificial flingers; some would use both. Using live bait or chumming was known by some and practiced by some. The availability of the bait and the cost prohibited many. Few people owned automobiles before W.W. II, so beach vehicles were in all practicability non-existent. Remember, too, the number of people who fished for sport were few and the number that were the elite of the group and fished lures for striped bass were, indeed, a very small number. Most of the equipment used by the lure clan was handmade and that which could not be made, was ordered through the mail, or found in a select tackle shop. The pioneers of that day have made striper fishing and lure fishing what it is today. Product development for this quest and the publications for learning the inner secrets and mysteries are an open book now. The products are so many that confusion of choice can now be added to the never-ending questions that plagued me as a boy.

By the end of W.W. II, I had accumulated a fair amount of tackle and received my first fishing rod: a thick split bamboo pole. Okay for the rocks, bridges, and piers, but certainly not an outfit for surf casting. Still I learned how to use it and could cast well after much practice. As the years passed and I grew older, I boarded party boats, traveled to bridges, piers and beaches with a friend I had found who also was afflicted with this malady. We fished a lot together and began to learn a lot as well. Most of the fish we caught was with natural bait. Probably the biggest advancement in tackle came about this time—monofilament line. Suddenly I realized that the near-invisible qualities it possessed was taking more and bigger fish. It was crude then, but it worked better than the nylon or linen we used and had to wash and dry after each trip. With this knowledge, I reasoned that use of an artificial attached to mono should make this sport more rewarding than it was, and the elusive striper might this time be fooled. I gave up

hooks, sinkers and natural bait and made an agreement with myself to pursue the art of artificial bait casting. No matter how long it was going to take, I was determined that I would get my striper.

It took three years, with a little assistance from others and mainly with observation, close and careful study and no interference from other types of fishing. I must admit, however, that I was forced into using natural bait and combinations to try and unravel the great mysteries. My first strike from a striper was on a small tin squid and sand worm combo, but I lost the fish in bridge pilings. My second strike came at dusk on a small brown plug, and I learned that fish can shake off small treble hooks easily. The third fish I hung onto and he hit a single hook bucktail. As I got closer to learning more detail, I also was getting closer to better places to fish and inevitably the sharpies who frequented these lonely, quiet areas. I observed them and their techniques and did likewise. When I failed, I would study the situation, draw diagrams, make notes of the tide and wind that existed when the fish were hitting. When I succeeded at a technique and thought I had learned enough about it, I would go on to the next. I was learning that to catch a striper meant a great deal more than I had ever imagined. A different technique to use, bait or artificial, was required to fish a jetty, pier, bridge or beach; and still more to learn when fishing these areas from a boat. Open water areas harbored many secrets as well. Where were the fish here? What type of bottom will they be feeding on? Chumming with live grass shrimp in a bay, under bridges and other structures produced many a school striper for me and yet a at other times, hair jigs were the deadliest. I had learned to catch stripers in a number of ways in a number of places using a number of techniques; yet I was still puzzled by a number of questions that were never answered. Some areas seemed to produce better by day and others at night. Areas that produced by day with artificials would yield fish at night with only worms or soft shell crabs. I caught fish trolling by day, but could not do it at night. I caught fish in the surf with a block tin jig, but it was taboo off a bridge at night, as was a plug on a bright clear day in the surf that caught the fish on the bridge that night. While worms went untouched and still another time, worms caught the most and the biggest, while the lure got the scat.

My fishing life was to be interrupted by a three-year hitch in the Navy; although when I was fortunate to get leave during the summer months, I found the fish almost waiting to be caught at the same places with the same techniques. I still pondered the mysteries of what would take that big striper that eluded me up to now. I knew that if I could find the answers, the chances of putting that fish on my stringer would be greater and the interludes of getting skunked would be less as well.

Little did I ever realize that some of the answers would come to me during my hitch on a destroyer. It was a little ship and we had the good fortune to anchor close ashore in places like Cuba, Virgin Island, Puerto Rico, Bermuda, Florida and other areas where the water was crystal clear and the fish could be observed. At night, the ship's lights would sometimes be turned on for identification purposes and they would reflect down into the water. This attracted a number of fish and bait fish as well. I could not identify a number of them such as the large family of angel fish, but I did recognize tarpon and some members of the jack family that I later looked up. An occasional shark would cruise by. The timid fish would stay in the outer perimeter of the light or down deep. I studied these fish whenever I got the chance and fished for them as well. I found them to be no different in attitude than our own northerly species. Some smaller fish would eagerly take a baited hook, even if the bait was a piece of chicken; while still another species or big fish would be more wary and ignore bait or lure.

I remember one particular day when someone threw a chicken bone into the water—a huge fish crashed the surface to claim the bone while soaking the shocked sailor! Knowing I harbored a fishing rod, he called me down to try and get the thing that danmned near drowned him! I ordered him to get all the scrap chicken he could get from the galley, which he soon did. I tore a chicken wing apart and gingerly tossed it into the water. The water was not too clear, but one could see the bait sink down to about five feet and then just disappear! A huge shadow seemed to overcome it. I attempted to frustrate the creature into revealing itself by tossing very small tidbits into the water in a very slow, but steady stream. It worked! He circled and gulped each bit and his eagerness to get more caused him to roll and swirl closer to the surface. A tarpon! It was tremendous in size. Meanwhile, we had gathered a sizeable audience that was amused by the little side show. However, I was about to learn something about fish behavior as I urged the wet sailor to continue chumming while I got my rod. On my return, I was told a school of other fish (jack crevale) had taken up residence in our little arena and were joining in on the "finger lick'n good" chum line. I concealed my hook in a healthy piece of chicken and lowered it slowly into the water and the big tarpon rose to it as the jacks kept their distance from him. He circled it like a shark, rolled over and down and away without even touching it. I began chumming again and the big fish took one piece after another. I changed bait with a smaller piece and placed it in line with the chum: he swallowed the first piece, then the second and the third; skipped the fourth and took the fifth—the fourth had the hook! My bait sank further and was engulfed by an estimated eight pound jack that gave one fierce battle before being released. My hat's off to that magnificent sharp-eyed tarpon that learned how to live to grow as big as he was. He taught me the challenge to take a big fish was no easy matter, as much strategy was needed as one might expect to dupe another human; but how so—it's only a fish.

We steamed away from that memorable anchorage for a week, in which time I recalled and carefully thought about the behavior of the tarpon and the jack that took the offering. Needless to say, the tarpon was old and wise; only a fish, but we were in his domain, trying to fool him with objects (hook and line) that were foreign and suspicious. He wasn't used to Sunday chicken on Tuesday either, I mused. It smelled like food and it tasted good enough to return for more—but not with strings attached, I concluded. How about the jack? Maybe he was hungrier or his eyesight not as good—whatever; more testing and learning was needed. We tried chicken chumming at night and found it worked, especially after removing the light bulbs from the glaring lights that lit up the water. Fortunately for us, someone left the whaleboat at the stern and we were able to fish from it close to the water. We got drenched as one tarpon after another thrashed and leaped over the surface before throwing the hook, yet they were small in comparison to the monster.

In the darkness, it was evident that the fish could not see as well to be wary, yet the big fish remained aware. I decided to use natural bait that resident fish were accustomed to, but it had to wait for another time. Where it was, I'm not certain, for it was sometime afterward in the Caribbean again. Since our ship was geared for sub chasing, all trash had to be ground up and pumped overboard in almost liquid form. On another anchorage, each day after chow the disposal unit would pump morsels of food into the sea; and on one such day a very large school of bait fish about the size of herring were having a picnic feeding in the stream of it all. With a lure, I managed to catch and snag about half a dozen of them and kept some alive in a pail of salt water. Every fifteen minutes or so I freshened up the water with another pail that I lowered to the surface with a line. Dusk fell and I was in business. The bait schools circled the ship looking for more chow and soon larger silhouettes appeared along the dark edges of the lights. The stage was set and all seemed to be going just right. I hooked a bait just behind the dorsal and let him swim free spool as he headed immediately for the cover of darkness—only to watch in amazement as he scurried back into the light

(Continued on page 19.)

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with a big fish in pursuit! The predator swallowed him whole and returned to the cover of darkness when I hit him. Some twenty minutes later, we lifted a large horse-eye jack to the fantail that must have weighed near thirty pounds. I fell asleep on the deck that night with baits swimming around unattended, except for the free spool rachet on the reel, but I was always too late. Early the next morning, before duties began, I took a ten to twelve pound barracuda with my now dead baits in daylight. I kept the remaining baits cold while back at sea and tried them again during one very dark night. Suspended just over the bottom with a hook firmly implanted inside, my bait was seized by something heavy. I set the hook and the line streamed out and away from the ship with amazing speed. Some one hundred feet away, a huge tarpon leaped clear of the water like a big white stallion, shook the hook and plummeted back into the water with a loud crash, heard by all on deck. I had similar encounters with sharks that were as thick as gnats off the coast of Cuba and on another dark night, had a memorable engagement with snook that readily smashed lures; and nights that fish would spurn anything and everything offered. However, what I learned in this part of the clear water world would prove invaluable to me in the deep green water of the north.

From this point on, I took on an attitude that big fish were present along with the smaller of the species. True, fish usually travel in class schools and sometimes big fish are loners, or in pairs; but where there is food, young and old alike will gather. Line and hooks must be concealed whenever possible; line color matters depending on where you are fishing; noise is a factor; light is a factor and can be used to advantage. Most big fish will be taken from dusk to daybreak. The effect of tides and moon phases are factors, affecting difference places in different ways. The wind is a factor and plays a big part in choosing a place to fish and a fish's mood is often the same as the temperament of the wind. If we succeed in fooling the fish, do we have the tackle and equipment to finish the job?

Upon discharge from the service, I immediately re-geared my tackle. Spinning tackle was coming into use—although it had been used in Europe since pre-W.W. II G.I.s returned with small outfits; and I had the privilege to watch a guy mohawk snapper blues with a French spinner back in 1947 as I sat alongside him with cane pole in hand, fresh spearing bait at the end of the hook and a limp line! He had something going for him that I did not quite understand at the time, except for the fact that he sent that tiny little lure a long way, and the tackle was not available then.

I armed myself with the deadliest lures known at the time and those not known—meaning if it looked good, I tested it or even altered it to get the appearance or swimming action I wanted. I planned to use natural baits as well, for the one big question still remained: would it be natural or artificial bait to take that big one?

(To be continued next week.)

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BUCKTAILS *WITHOUT WIRE*

by Tim Coleman

So far this fall, bass fishing has amounted to a trickle of fish moving through normal migratory channels. If the weather holds we'll have some fish into November, but the fall of 1978 does NOT look to be a memorable one for bass men.

Comparatively, blues will be around in good numbers, particularly Texas blues: big stuff; chopping machines to twenty pounds—and beyond. They will provide sport for a variety of fishermen including the bucktail jigger. The normal method of bucktailing calls for X amount of wire to be streamed when the lure and its pork rind accompaniment are jigged through the water with short strokes of a wire line stick. There is another way. Bucktails as light as one-and-a-quarter ounces can take fish—under the right conditions—as far down as forty feet without the use of wire.

The best tackle for the non-wire use of bucktails is conventional gear. The same rod you use for other types of bluefishing will do here. Good reels would be the 113H, Jigmaster with metal spool and Garcia 9000. Thirty pound mono is a good starting point for trial-and-error adaption of this method to your particular needs.

For extra insurance, use a leader made up of thirty inches of forty pound leader material. Tie a black barrel swivel on one end and a sturdy snap on the other. Some people always tie the leader directly to a bucktail; it's against their religion to use a snap with a bucktail. I'm not an atheist, just lazy. The ease of changing lures appeals to me.

Weight of the bucktail depends on the depth of the water and the strength of the wind and tide. Fishing with Charlie Soares up off the Rhode Island Coast, we found one-and-a-quarter ounce bucktails like the J&B Shovelnose were all we needed to take blues forty feet down—as long as the wind wasn't screaming. Color of the bucktail is a matter of concern to me, as long as it is all white with a five inch strip of Uncle Josh White Striper and Muskie style pork rind.

The method we are about to look at is best suited to taking fish scattered about a particular area. Other fishing methods should be employed in an area where the tide really boils over a hump that creates a large, noticeable tide rip.

Find an offshore area where you know blues hang around looking for a decent meal. For best initial results, go some place where there's only a moderate current. I'll explain why in a minute. Once you are on station, position your boat upcurrent or up-wind of the spot you want to hit. As the boat moves along, drop the bucktail over the side so it is going away from the boat—not under it. Free spool the reel until you feel the lure hit bottom. Keep enough pressure on the spool as the lure descends to prevent an overrun, better known as a bird's-nest.

When the lure touches down, put the reel in gear immediately. If you don't, you will become a seagoing trash collector. The bucktail will sweep along the bottom picking up weeds galore—but no fish. This is the reason for picking a spot with a moderate current. It is much easier to feel the lure hit since it is moving slower. This will take a bit of practice. You want the bucktail to barely touch the bottom, then "bounce" back up right away, if not sooner.

After putting the reel in gear, take five to six slow turns of the handle.

The slow retrieve coupled with the boat's drifting away from the lure will cause the bucktail to rise off the bottom. Careful! Be especially watchful the first couple feet the lure is lifting. That's when most of your fish will hit.

After six turns (on a day with moderate wind), the lure will be ten to fifteen feet up, depending on conditions of tide on that particular day. If you haven't had any hits, take the reel out of gear once again and let the lure go back down. Repeat the bounce and retrieve procedure. With this method an angler can consistently cover water within fifteen to twenty feet of the bottom, not to mention different areas of the bottom as the boat drifts along.

In water fifteen to twenty feet deep, you might get five or more "drop-backs" before the lure is too far away for effective hook setting. Remember the stretch of mono. In water forty feet deep you might get only two drop-backs. Note: I guarantee experimentation will be necessary to adapt this method to your particular spot. You might have to go to a heavier bucktail or lighter line to keep the lure from rapidly moving away from the bottom. Best results seem to come when the lure rises at a moderate rate.

In water less than ten feet, you might need one-half to three-quarter ounce bucktails. We found the one-and-a-quarter ounce Shovelnose jig too heavy for this depth. Once the lure hit, it wouldn't lift up unless the wind was blowing hard. And then it would come up too fast for consistent results.

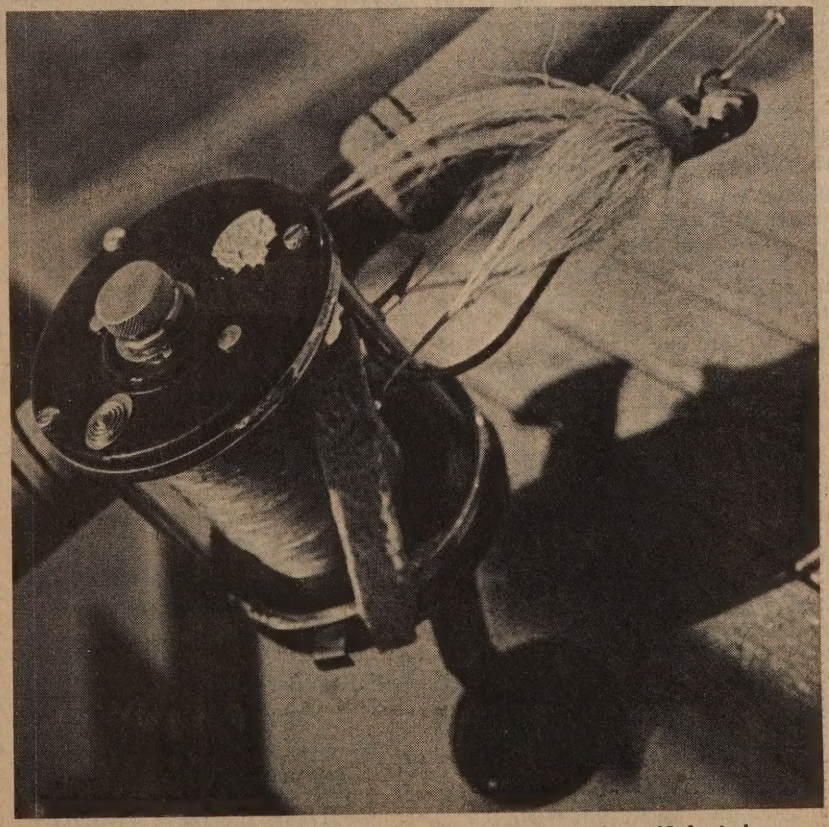
With this method an angler doesn't have to jerk wire all day. Just slow turns of the handle and the pork rind will flutter in a lifelike manner. There's no need to look like the conductor of the Boston Symphony. Steady retrieving will put you into fish if you selected the right area at the right stage of tide.

Before we part company for the week, let's go over the most important parts once again:

1. Conventional gear with 30 lb. mono.
2. Spot where blues scattered over piece of bottom.
3. Moderate current-wind conditions.
4. Bucktail goes down away from boat—not under it.
5. As soon as it hits, put reel in gear.
6. Five-six slow, steady runs; no gymnastics.
7. If no hits, repeat procedure until lure is too far away.
8. Experiment with general method to suit your spot.

If you have any questions, write to me c/o The Fisherman. If you "do good" with this method, send me a photo for our reports section with particulars of the catch. Between then and now comes the fun part: CATCHIN' FISH.

Blue taken on white bucktail and pork rind. Fish was taken 15 feet down without need of wire line.



Bucktails like this 1¼ ounce Shovelnose can take blues 40 feet down without wire, in spots with moderate current and a day with moderate breeze.

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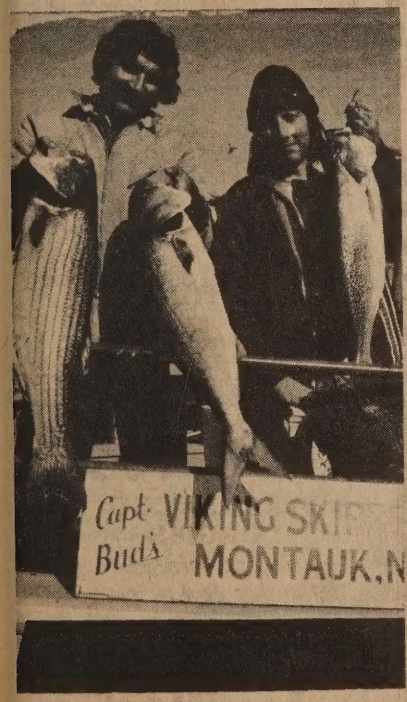
BLUEFISH

Capt. Buddy Dorman of the **Viking Skipper II** tells us that on Saturday he had a good sprinkling of stripers mixed in with chopper blues and bonito, on Ava jigs. The bass went to 20 lbs. in the North rips, while schoolies were picked on the south side and at the Sub Buoy. Bud says he's not getting EVERY day, but the odds are good.

Little Bear and **Flying Cloud** reports there is still good porgy fishing off Block Island along with big sea bass and more and more small cod everyday. The West Grounds and Southwest Ledge seem to be producing best. On Sat. an 11½ lb. blackfish



Tom Sobik (left) of Mt. Sinai and Ken Noe of Ridgewood with part of their catch of bluefish, weakfish and bass taken aboard the "Viking Skipper II" out of Montauk.

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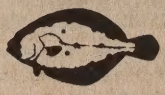

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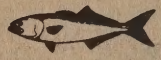

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The Seaford Rod & Gun Club took 25 blues and 20 bass up to 30 lbs., fishing aboard Montauk's "Sea Doll."

took the pool and on Sun. a 6½ lb. sea bass took the pool.

Capt. Richie Rade on the **Marlin IV** happily reports continued good porgy action at Block Island. The boat will start in pursuit of big blacks also at the end of this week and the boat will be fishing for blacks, cod and porgies. Night blues are still great, with over 300 blues for 16 men one night this past week.

Capt. Paul Forsberg of the **Viking Fleet** tells us that the Coxes Ledge cod is a little on the slow side and instead, good mixed catches of porgies, sea bass, fluke, flounder and blackfish, all of the inshore warm water species are moving through and gobbling baits. Strong catches of blues are still being made and the Viking Star is having the finest kind of porgy fishing of jumbos everyday.

Charter boat called to tell us on Friday even though the weather was poor, their party managed to get 10 blues and 2 bass in the 20s. Capt. John says he has a few open dates this coming weekend which coincides with an upturn in the bass catches. Catches are being made on white tubed umbrellas.

Charter boat **Julie III** called to tell us that Saturday's party of Al Goldberg and group took 46 blues from 19-17 lbs. and 103 blackfish from 3-9 lbs. Fishing was at Cartwright and Washington Shoals.

Capt. Gene Kelly of the charter boat **Sea Doll** called to say that Sat. morning's charter trolled up 20 stripers to 38 lbs. and 25 blues to 18 lbs., all at Great Eastern on the last of the incoming. Other boats did a good job at the Elbow on slack water. Sun. morning's charter boated 4 bass up to 25 lbs. and 18 bluefish.

Charter boat **Vivienne** reported Saturday's catch was excellent, though Sunday fizzled out. Loads of anchovies moving around the point. Fish have been hitting on both tides and catches somewhat erratic. They

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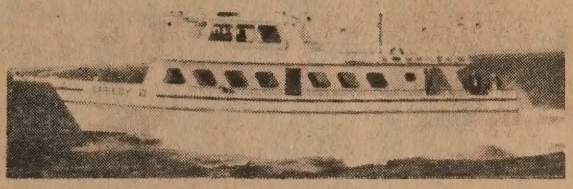
SPEEDY VI



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Shown is fisherman George Oliver with striped bass up to 52 lbs. taken with Ron Onorato during the August full moon at Montauk. The catch has 3 fish over 50 lbs. and another 11 fish over 40 lbs.

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BRING YOUR HEAVY TACKLE!!!
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are showing up at Pollack Rip, Great Eastern and the Elbow.

Charter boat **Montauk** called to tell us that Saturday's party from Staten Island led by Santo Connuvo and Fiore Fontana caught 15 stripers to 33lbs. off Great Eastern along with 20 alligator blues on jigs, no wire. Sunday's charter led by Carl Adler and Terry Pollock decked 10 stripers up to 25 lbs., at the Sub Buoy and 60 blues off Ditch Plains, again in on jigs and mono.

Capt. Phil Lewis of the **Adios** called to say the latter part of the week picked up on bass, a good sign. On Friday, they hit on both tides. Sunday's charter had 22 nice bass, 4 over 30 lbs, caught all around the point.

Four of the ten bass to 30 lbs. for Frank, Hank and Joe. Ava jigs did the job aboard the "Vivienne" out of Montauk.

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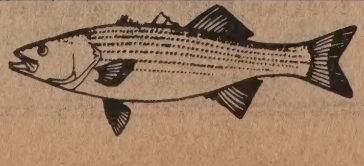

SOUTH FORK
★ BEST BET ★
BLACKFISH

PECONICS

Speck's Bait & Tackle reports th e stripers have been slow and steady along the Shinnecock Beaches on live eels. This should improve as the bluefish leave. Continued good black fishing at Gardiner's, Montauk and Three Mile Harbor. Flounder remain steady at Sag Harbor, Three Mile Harbor and Noyac Bay.

SHINNECOCK

Capt. Clark Bellows of the **Capt Clark Fleet** tells us that the blackfish ing has improved greatly on the ocean

recks, while it is only fair in the Bay. s a result, both boats will be fishing ne ocean wrecks now, where they are so hanging sea bass. On Friday, ave Dorf took the pool with a 9 lb. 8 z. black at the Panther Wreck. All ares had good catches of blackfish.

Bob Mitterando caught this 42 pound striped bass from the surf on the ocean side of the Smith Point Bridge on squid. Subscriber Club Photo.

MORICHES BAY

Skidmore's Fishing Station reports ounder being caught in the latter art of the week, but action was down onsiderably over the weekend due to igh winds and unfavorable tides. he crabbing held up, some boats etting 3½-4 dz. blueclaws. The fish re there—it's just a matter of getting ne right conditions.

John DeVita and Richie Leath with 90 flounder and 3½ doz. blueclaw crabs taken at buoy 50. Photo courtesy of Skidmore's Fishing Station.

Fish Talk: ON WHALES & PUPFISH

(Continued from page 7.)

fewer nations harvested whales and technology made it possible to harvest whales quicker, more efficiently, and with almost no risk to the whalers. The result was the emergence of the Russians and the Japanese as dominant whaling nations.

PUPFISH. According to **Conservation News**, a publication of the National Wildlife Federation, the Tecopa pupfish, an inch-and-a-half inch fish of the Amargosa River near Death Valley California is extinct. Who cares you ask? Perhaps it is an insignificant event in the passage of time, but only if we hold to the theory that small fish, found only in a limited area, and unnoticed by almost everybody are unimportant. The small pupfish was placed on the endangered species list a number of years ago, and the Fish and Wildlife Service has been unable to find any trace of the little finny beast since 1970. Apparently the fish was a victim of pollution, stream channelization, and the introduction of competing species. It is impossible to say what impact the extinction of this species may have upon the total ecology of the Amargosa River and the coastal ocean that it feeds into. True, many times the extinction of a delicate specialized creature makes little impact upon the total ecology of an area, save for the simultaneous disappearance of some prey creature or parasite which depended upon the little fish for its own survival. On the other hand, there is the domino principle. In this model, one species becomes extinct and this results in the extinction of a dependent species which, in turn, brings about the extinction of other species that were dependent upon the first dependent species and so on and so on, until the list of extinct species may grow longer than your arm and a once productive habitat is lost. The striped bass may be an example of a species caught in just such a predicament. Although adult bass are hardy, can withstand almost any and all environmental conditions, can eat everything alive or dead, the young fry bass are not so lucky. From evidence that has recently been presented, the young bass are apparently dependent upon specific planktonic organisms which are part of a food chain that has as its base certain specific species of algae. In the last few years, the use of herbicides to control weeds by farmers whose farms line the Chesapeake spawning grounds has caused the destruction of the algae. Scientists are uncertain at this point in time, but they say that the herbicides—not the PCBs and power plants—may be the real threat to the striped bass.

WHALES AND STRIPED BASS. A total management plan for the oceans seems more and more to be the ultimate path to maintaining viable stocks of marine finfish, shellfish, and mammals. We cannot separate whales from striped bass, pupfish from algae since we just do not really know what effect the demise of one will have upon the others. The 200-Mile Limit and the new management procedures of the International Whaling Commission are steps in that right direction.

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GREAT SOUTH BAY
★ BEST BET ★
FLOUNDER

SAYVILLE

Vinnie at **Young's Fishing Station** tells us that very good flounder catches are being made between Barrett Beach and Sayville, anywhere from 1-3 miles off the Station on worm and clam. You've got to chum or stir up the bottom or fish behind the clam diggers or the dredges.

BAY SHORE

Carl at **Smokey's Bait and Tackle** reports good flounder catches at Bergen Point, on the Babylon flats and behind the hospital on worm and clam. A definite improvement in the flattie action. Good blackfishing at the inside Kismet Reef, the Sore Thumb and the pilings of the Robt. Moses bridge. Some weaks in front of the lighthouse taken by bass hounds fishing live eels. Bass fishing has been pretty good at the Sore Thumb, Gilgo and Cedar and on the west bar on live eels with lots of big blues also. A load of 2-3 lb. blues have been taken both east and west of the inlet along the beach, best on tins.

Surf fisherman Ralph Torrell of Massapequa pulled a 20 lb. bass from the surf at Gilgo which was weighed in at the Robt. Moses fishing pier bait store. On the gaff, was Brendon Brown, who also had a nice striper. Both fish fell to live eels.

The open boat **Casey Lee** reports that flounder fishing is good on most days. Bigger fish are starting to show and catches are averaging 8 to 15 fish per man.

CAPTREE

The Capt. Scotty reports that Sat. was a leap job on big alligator bluefish from 8-12 lbs. on the Oregon Wreck. Many fares had 20-25 blues. There are also many 2-4 lb. sea bass taken. Only a handful of fish were taken Sunday, though four different wrecks were hit. It is advised that you try and come down during the week when crowds are the lightest and fishing usually the hottest.

The charter boat **Lady Ann** reported an excellent catch of porgies, sea bass, blacks, and blues taken on Saturday on the Fire Island Reef. Sunday they had fair bluefishing. 41 choppers from 2 to 15 lbs. were landed during the day.

Capt. Bob of the **Yankee** reports that Saturday's special wreck trip over a pet deep-water wreck saw 65 big fish, mainly pollack come over the rail. These pollack were in the 25-35 lb. range. The balance of the catch was cod and bluefish and Bob says the blues were there in numbers and they were ferocious. The next special wreck trip planned is for November 11. See ad for details.

Mrs. Bill Leonard and son, with a 27 lb. bass taken on a live eel by Mr. Leonard. Photo courtesy of Augie's Bait & Tackle.

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BABYLON

Ski at **Augie's Bait and Tackle** tells us that he weighed in a bass hitting 36 lbs. 1 oz. on Monday morning for East Islip angler Pete Mercier of the South Shore Marlin and Tuna Club. The fish too a bunker at the west bar in the FI Inlet during Sunday night. Pete also had a 5½ lb. weak. Ski has been weighing in other bass during the week between 20 and 40 lbs. Ninety percent are boat fish, but this could also be due to the well-known secretive nature of the surf fishing clan. The surf casters are flinging eels while the boat anglers are doing it mainly on bunker. All at night, from the Sore Thumb to Gilgo. Lots of big blues at night in this whole area along with the tiny FI jetty area, blues from 10-14 lbs. Flounders are so-so, though better than last year at this time. Roughly 30 per cent of the fish are keepers with a few hitting the 2 lb. mark. Best is from the bridge west to Copiague and in the flats in 6-8 ft. of water. Gill netters are still murdering weakfish, but hook and liners can't get arrested.

Bill at **Babylon Fishing Station** reports continued good flounder fishing on bloods and clam south of Good Sam and off Bergen Point. Fish are getting larger with an average of 6-10 keepers per man, but lots and lot of midgets.

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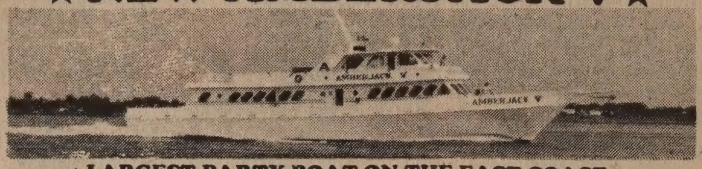

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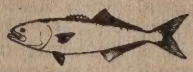

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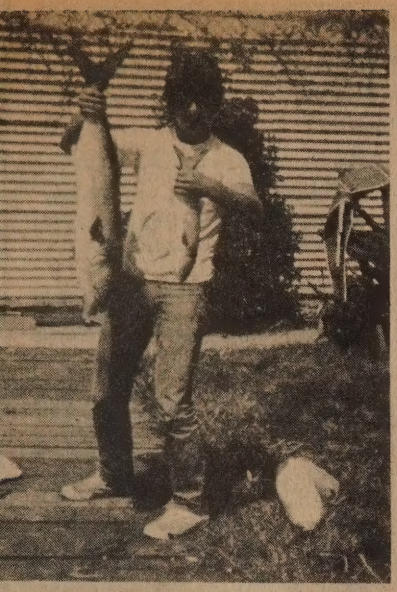

Joseph Parise, Jr. caught this 17 lb. bluefish trolling at Cedar Beach aboard "Our Baby" with his grandfather, John Buscemi.

SOUTH SHORE BAYS
★ BEST BET ★
FLOUNDER

LINDENHURST

The racoon at **Charlie's Bait and Tackle** reports good flounder catches in the east/west c hannel, on the Babylon flats off the Babylon cut on worm and clam assisted by any kind of chum. Blues to the west of th e inlet on the outside for trollers, jiggers and chummers. Blackfish on fiddlers or green crab at the Kismet Reef. Joey G bagged a good catch of stripers up to 38 lbs. from the construction dock to the Sore Thumb drifting live bunker on Mon. and Wed. This is an all night and early morning proposition.

COPIAGUE

Larry At **Bait and Tackle Unlimited** reported good flounder catches off Copiague Beach, Bergen Point and the State Channel on clam and worm with clam chum a big help. The Cyalume light sticks continue to be working well in conjunction with American Way Tackle corn rigs. Big blues and some bass off Cedar Beach on live eels.

AMITYVILLE

George Combs Bait and Tackle tells of very good blackfishing at the Kismet Reef and at the 3rd Meadowbrook on fiddlers and greens. Fair to good flounder catches at the Copiague Hole and Zachs Bay, with Snake Hill Channel and West Island also producing on worm, clam and chum.

BELLMORE

Joe Carter on his boat **Blue Max** took his first small cod of the season south of Fire Island in 100 ft. of water. On the rod was buddy Dick Yarkin.

MERRICK

Jimmy at **Nick's Fishing Station** informs us that Lenny Baum boated a 36 lb 8 oz striper Sun. on a bunker spoon, trolling east of the Jones Inlet jetty. Mixed blues both at the Meadowbrook bridge and also in 25-60 ft. depths from the inlet to the pink hotel. This is on the troll and also on drifted bunker. Flounders are up and down with anywhere from 3-30 keepers per skiff. The west end of Carmen's Cut has been producing this week. Good blackfishing at the Wantagh Bridges and the T-wreck.

BALDWIN

Arthur St. Fishing Station tells us that on Oct. 25, George Zipper took an 18¾ lb. blue and George is leading in the Station's bluefish contest. Mainly small flounder are being caught in Baldwin Bay and Scow creek. Jerry Kircher had 5 blues in the high teens fishing 50 ft. of water SW of the Lido hotel. As of 9AM Mond., Andy fishing just a little ways off the beach in his new Hydra sport has one bass and 1 blue in the box.

WEST END SOUTH SHORE
★ BEST BET ★
BLUEFISH

FREEPORT

Capt. Mike Dannon of the **Capt. Lou II** tells us he's been having good flounder action all week long and that fish are bigger now with a few up to 2 lbs. On Wed., Paul Wetterau of Franklin Sq. had 28 keepers. On Friday, Mike Fayer of Great Neck had 30 flounder. Saturday was good, but Sunday was excellent. James Cepapo of Bellrose had 45 keeper flounder. Joe Hoffingberg and Dick Matousek of Astoria had 85 good flounder between them. This was all in local creeks. Dan Conentone and Ron Beecham had 53 flounder. Kimble Arthur of Bklyn. had 35 fish. S. Soejima of Japan and friend had 58 flounder. Last of the outgoing tide was the best.

The Capt. Al reports good bluefishing at Cholera during part of the week for bigger fish than previous at that area, but then it developed into a pick. Different areas were worked during the week and weekend and mixed sizes were jigged. On Sunday, the boat made one drop with very good bluefish catches with some doggies mixed in and also a 3 lb. fluke. There are still a lot of blues to be caught in this whole close in area.

Capt. Sy Karlin of the **Blue Fin II** reports flounders on the upswing and that his Sat. charter for the BPOE on New Hyde Park had good catches of flounder in local waters on worm and clam, with the larger fish preferring the clam. Sy fished Cholera Sunday and they pulled blues and dogfish which showed up in force. The pool was taken by Jim Twozzo of the Park Loung Anglers with a 17 lb. alligator blue. Capt. Charlie Adams on the **Blue Fin** Sun. put the Double T Fishing Club onto 49 good blackfish, Roy Capoff taking the pool with a 4 lb. 3 oz specimen. The dogs are—can cod be far behind? Sy says he has a few cod dates available. See ad for details.

The **Starstream II** reports bluefishing was up and down Mon. thru Thurs., with Fri. good and Sat. fair. However, Sun. was a complete slaughter on both bait and diamond jigs on 4-13 lb. fish, just a couple miles south of Cholera.

Sea Isle Sports reports flounder being caught in Swift Creek and Middle Bay on clam and worm. Blues devastating bunker baits at Deb's Inlet and blues also close in off Jones Inlet on umbrellas trailing small spoons. Last Thurs. evening, Greg, Sea Isle's ace reel repairman bagged a 25 lb. striper on a sandworm at the 3rd Meadowbrook at 7PM at the start of the flood, fishing the bottom. He also had 18 blues up to 17 lbs. just a few days before that also on live bunker fishing from his tin boat. The name of the boat is Sea Quest.

POINT LOOKOUT

Scotty's Marina reported that Irving Grossman trolled 300 lbs. of blues and a 26 lb. striper over the weekend. He fished between Point Lookout and Lido in 40-60 feet of water and took the fish on small bunker spoons fished deep with wire. Flounder on the flats, at the Coast Guard Station, and Buoys 14 and 15 for worm dunkers and there was a good run of big weaks up to 12 lbs. early last week between the Wantagh and Meadowbrook bridges.

ISLAND PARK

Charlie at **Beckmann's Tackle** reported plenty of blues outside in 30 to 40 feet of water. Some bass are in Jones Inlet. Mark Chimnici had a 20 pounder and dropped 2 nice fish using a yellow bottle plug early Saturday a.m. Flounders are "much improved" size wise and surf casters are taking small blues at West End Jones Beach.

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EDITORIAL

(Continued from page 4.)

Well, all we can suggest to the East Hampton Town Board is that they wouldn't make many sport fishermen friends, with their many "tourist" dollars, by taking such an arbitrary action as proposed by the local town newsletter. At the present time, the east end of Long Island (which includes Montauk) has something less than seven miles of ocean beach that surf fishermen have access to. If we don't organize now and start a letter-writing campaign in protest, we could see our access dwindle to as little as three or four miles. And don't think that this battle is only of concern to those who fish the surf. If this kind of special interest ordinance is allowed to go unchallenged, the next thing we know, the Town of East Hampton will be trying to Nationalize the Elbow, Great Eastern and Cartwright Grounds based on some 300-year-old King's Grant found in an Amagansett attic. Send your letters of protest to: East Hampton Town Hall, Pantigo Road, East Hampton, New York 11937.

Scott F. Simons

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Capt. Klem on the **Commodore** tells us that he had a great flounder weekend, one of the best of the year. Saturday saw 21 fares average over 30 keeper flounder per man. Bill Strobel of the Bronx had over 50 keeper flounder and took the pool with a 1 lb. 8 oz. flounder. Bill returned on Sun. and took the pool again along with another 30 or so flatties. On Sun. the average dipped a little to 25 keepers per man. Klem says the fish are all over the bay in the deeper holes. The area at buoy 9, 16 and the north side of Long Creek were very productive. Super fishing and great weather and Klem says these are mainly keepers. What could be better.

Stephen Weitzen, Joe Masone and 2 other members of Tournament Anglers fishing on Joe's Debra had 650 lbs. of blues up to 18 lbs. fishing 170 degrees, 120 ft. of water out of Jones on Sat. on bait and jigs.

ATLANTIC BEACH

Henning's Fishing Station also reported plenty of blues outside the inlet. Sy weighed in a 16 pounder for 11 year old Jeff Schneider over the weekend. Blackfishing is holding up at the Atlantic Beach Bridge and flounder fishing is still improving. Bass were taken from the beach on eels and bunker during the week. Biggest fish weighed in over the weekend was a 25 pounder taken from the Atlantic Beach surf.

Capt. Ronnie Lepper of the **Kim** tells us that between Fl and Sandy Hook there are jumbo blues cruising all over the place from 10-18 lbs. and a few larger. They're mainly in depths

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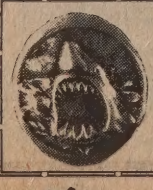
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of 40-70 feet of water and Ronnie's best combination has been 300 ft. of wire with an 8 oz. drail and the Lupo Baby Bunker spoons. If lucky, a bass will be under the blues and perhaps get a chance to take a whack at the offering. Quite a few have been caught this way. Good catches of schoolies on the Jersey side up until the weekend boat traffic hit on spoons and umbrellas.

JAMAICA BAY

Cross Bay Bait and Tackle spoke of good blackfishing at the bridges on fiddler crab bait. Flounders of mixed sizes are being caught and a few bass being taken from the Rockaway surf by casters.

SHEEPSHEAD BAY

Guy DeBlasio reported that monster blues are still being taken at the Farms and 15 Fathoms but it is a day to day proposition. Bass are being taken at Staten Island along with a mixture of big blues. Flounder fishing has been good at Silver Hole.

Capt. Walter on the **Flamingo III** reports Sunday's fishing was a fantastic catch of the biggest kind of alligator blues just like we had last Nov. in the N. Y. Bight. It was mostly jig fishing. The fish are working south and there's an abundance of anchovies, butterfish and sand eels in the water. The fish get wild and in their feeding frenzy break water. Fares are pulling fish like gangbusters. This was a big improvement over Fri. and Sat., so it's a new ball game now and we should have about 3 more weeks of this wildness. A 30 lb. striper was taken during the week. On Sat., quite a few stripers came over the rail.

The Amberjack V on its offshore cod and pollack wreck trip this past weekend had 103 mixed cod and pollack, mostly of the large size. The pool fish was a 41 lb. cod which was followed up by a 39 lb. pollack. The daily and nightly bluefishing remains a slaughter. There will be another offshore giant cod and pollack trip this weekend, so see ad for details.

Capt. Tom on the **Elsie K III** reports Sunday's bluefishing was a complete slaughter. He is now switching over to blackfish and will begin this Sat. at 7 AM.

Capt. Kevin on the **Dorothy B** tells us that 14 yr. old Chris Griffith of Ohio had 2 small codfish and 17 blackfish on Friday, while his brother Keith had 8 blackfish. It's been very good for blacks all week with lots of ling also Sat. and Sun. Big hauls of whiting at the Mud hole by the draggers, so as soon as the water temp drops a bit and they start hitting baits, it should be a super whiting season.

Capt. Hoek on the **Helen H** tells us the bluefishing has been good all week, all fish gaffers and he's working the area from Klondike to the farms.

The Atomic II tells us that roughly 3/4 of the 50 fares on Sun. had full 5 gal. buckets of ling with good blackfish also mixed in. Whiting are on their way. Draggers are getting t them by the ton and they'll be taken on hook and line very shortly.

Neil at **Stella Maris Bait and Tackle** reports that Mr. and Mrs. Noel Inzerella of the U. S. Park Police in 1½ hrs. decked 400 lbs. of blues. Fish were up to 18 lbs. hitting trolled umbrellas at Norton's Point on Noel's boat STRIKE II.

STATEN ISLAND

Lenny of **Santo's Sport Shop** had a long list of weigh-ins waiting when we called. Seven year old Fred Gilman Jr. led the way with a 47 lb. striper taken at can 21 on a live bunker. Jr. and Sr. had 3 other fish of 19, 27, and 33 lbs. Surf casters took some nice bass which were mixed in with the many big blues being caught from Cliff Street to Great Kills Park. Bunker chunks and an outgoing tide are the ticket in this area. The list of surf caught bass weighed in the past few days included Bill Sinowiec with a 30, John Pigott a 41, Dan Venditti a 35, Sal Spurge a 30, Frank Noto a 41½ and Charlie Tavernna a 18½ pounder. Blues along the beach are running 10 to 15 lbs. Boats working the beach are trolling blues with an occastional big bass on Lupo spoons. Good flounder fishing in Great Kills Harbor for fish ½ to ¾ of a pound on worm bait.

PECONICS & GARDINERS

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FLOUNDER

GREENPORT

A.P. White Bait Shop reported that the open boat **Brand X** is still loading up on big blues at the Race and the Gut. Blackfish and flounder are fair in all the local areas. Bass are being taken in the Gut and at the sluiceway by regulars using bucktails and live bait.

SOUTHOLD

Port of Egypt Fishing Station reports that on Saturday good catches of blacks and flounder were made at Pettys Bight and off the Lighthouse. Some of the flounder were up to 2½ lbs. Flounder also taken at Long Beach and Pipes Cove. Blues are in the Gut and off Sound beaches.

AQUEBOGUE

Warren's Tackle Center reported flounder fishing in the bay improving. A lot of small fish being taken. Blues and bonito are roaming the sound and blackfishing is holding up pretty good.

821-0140

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1974 Fleetcraft 23' 225 OMC, compensated compass; D/F, VHF radio; spotlight; SST Propeller. Very clean. $8500. EDDIE'S MARINE SERVICE, 212-FA 7-3166.

22' 1977 SISU BASS BOAT. Six cylinder 170 h.p. Volvo Inboard, Freshwater cooled. Bunk; 8' Beam; Full Keel, Tiller and Stern Controls; rod holders; Ross Dual Sportsman; Johnson CB Messenger, outriggers, compass. Hard top. Two fighting chairs. Cruises at 19 knots. Made for the serious fisherman. Asking: $12,500. Call—Ken Turco after 5PM at 516-728-3797.

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MAKO 19' 1978 DEALER DEMO. 115 h.p. Evinrude with a power trim. Many extras. New boat and motor warranty. $6695. SOUTH SHORE BOATS. 516-653-6800.

NEW 1978 POINTER 18. Maine built for fisherman. Neat, clean, uncluttered. Finest hand lamination. Whaler enthusiast must see. Save! EDDIE'S MARINE SERVICE, 212-327-3168. Lawrence.

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22' MAKO, Twin 100 h.p. Evinrudes, S/S props., Lowrance depth-fish recorder; VHF radio. Full canvas. Galvanized trailer; Ritchie compass; winch. Extras. Will demonstrate. Excellent condition. $6500 FIRM. 516-333-2550.

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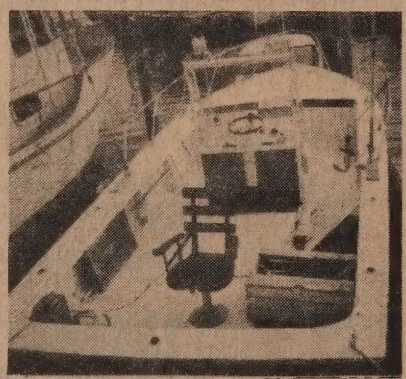

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NORTH SHORE MID-ISLAND
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ROCKY POINT

Rocky Point Fishing Stop spoke of blues at the Shoreham Power plant. The fish are running 5-20 lbs. and being taken on bunker chunks. Blackfishing is very good in the area around the power plant also. Green crabs are producing best. Fair flounder fishing in Mt. Sinai harbor on sandworms.

MT. SINAI HBR.

Ralphs Fishing Station reported 2-12 lb. blues out in the sound for jiggers and trollers. Some bonito are still mixed in with the choppers. Pretty good flounder fishing for fish up to 1 lb. but blackfishing has not been what it should be.

Chuck Schloss with a 20 lb. chopper blue taken from shore on a white popper. Photo courtesy of Rocky Point Fishing Stop.

PORT JEFFERSON

Caraftis Fishing Station reports a lot of small blue fish at buoy 11 for Diamond jiggers. Blackfishing at Old Field is fair and flounder fishing at the entrance of Setauk Harbor was good over the weekend. Fish ran up to 1 pound.

KINGS PARK

Mae's Way Fishing Station told us that blues are outside off of the Lilco plant and Callahans for trollers. The Bruno family had 12 up to 16 lbs. over the weekend. Good fishing for flounder and tommy cod in the river. Charlie Oshe and Mike Giannattasio had 30 nice flounder up to 1¼ pounds while Steve Nemeth had a good mixed catch of floundes and the tom cod.

This 16 lb. chopper was landed on 8 lb. test by Dom Casella in Northport Harbor. Photo courtesy of Four Winds Bait & Tackle.

HUNTINGTON

Ronnie's Bait and Tackle reported good blackfishing at buoy 11B and Target Rock on green crabs. Small flounders are in the harbor and bay on sandworms. Blues and bass mixed for jiggers at buoy 15 and for trollers at Eaton's Neck. On Saturday, Jack and John Calderon trolled 8 bass up to 10 lbs. and a 14 lb. blue on umbrellas at Eaton's Neck.

Capt. Don's **Ever Ready** had great blues on Sat. John Humm of Oyster Bay won the pool with a 17 lbr. On Sunday's blue run, the first blue was caught 30 seconds into the drop zone. Art Joniewicz came up with a bonito, the first caught aboard the Ever Ready with another bonito in the 5 lb. class taken a few minutes later. The blackfish run at 11B produced a mixed bag of blacks and giant blues, blues up to 18 lbs. The Ever Ready will be sailing open boat on Sunday's only for the remainder of the season.

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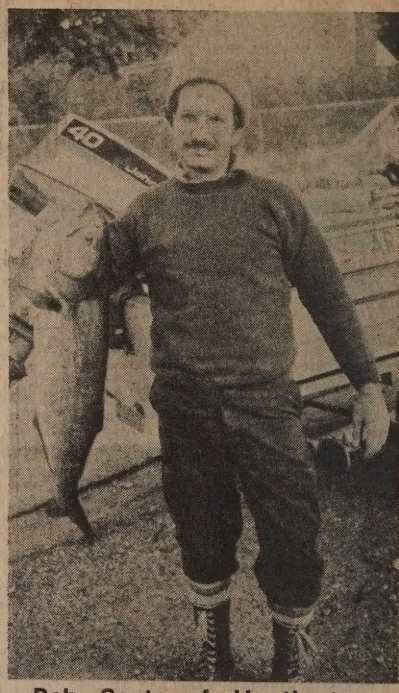

Bob Cento of Huntington Station displays 15¾ lb. blue taken in Huntington Harbor on a bunker. Photo courtesy of Ronnie's Bait and Tackle.

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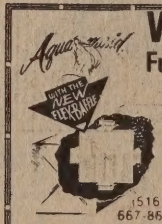

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CITY ISLAND

Jack's Bait and Tackle spoke of lots of blackfish at Pea Island, Execution Light, and off of Mamaroneck. Flounder fishing is good on either side of the island and school bass are being taken by worm trollers at Harts Island.

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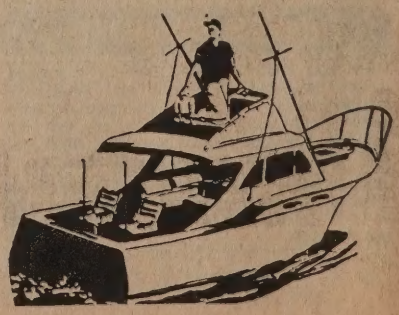
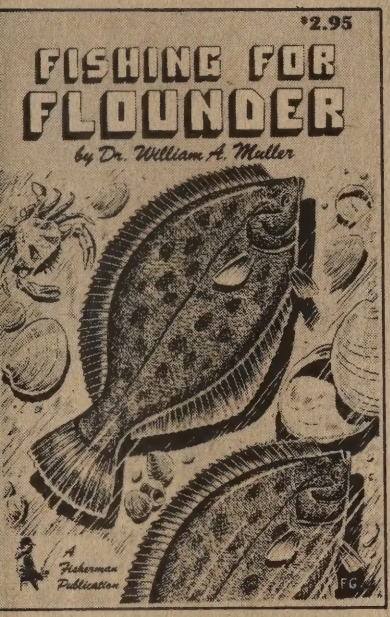


FISHERMAN PUBLICATIONS

At last! Books on local fish written by local fishermen for local fishermen! Published by The Fisherman for our readers.



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The first book EVER to be published exxclusively on techniques for catching winter flounder. Separate chapters cover topics like *Baits, Rigging Up, Scientific Information, Chumming Techniques, How-To Locate Flounder, Where-To Go, Fishing Techniques*—also an entire chapter on how to clean and cook this table favorite. Fully illustrated by Fred Guardineer, photos. 96 Pages.

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FISHING FOR FLUKE

by Scott Simons

The first book EVER to be published exclusively on how to catch fluke! Contains complete chapters on *Tackle, Equipment, Rigging Up, Natural Baits, Bottom Formations, Drifting, Trolling, Chumming* and *Articial Lures.* Illustrated with over 85 photographs and diagrams by Fred Guardineer. 112 Pages.

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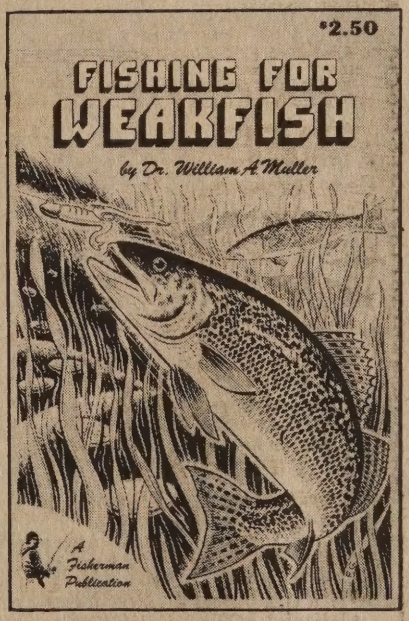

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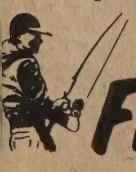

The FISHERMAN

Post Office Box 1994
Sag Harbor, New York 11963

HIGH TIDE TABLES

DAY	SANDY HOOK AM	SANDY HOOK PM	Breakwater Harbor AM	Breakwater Harbor PM	NEW YORK AM	NEW YORK PM	NEW LONDON AM	NEW LONDON PM	WILLETS POINT AM	WILLETS POINT PM	BRIDGE-PORT AM	BRIDGE-PORT PM	NEW-PORT AM	NEW-PORT PM	DATE
THUR.	8:25	8:46	9:08	9:29	8:53	9:21	9:47	10:21	11:37	—	11:43	—	8:24	8:47	11/2
FRI.	9:12	9:34	9:54	10:17	9:42	10:15	10:33	11:12	12:06	12:22 -	12:12	12:30	9:11	9:37	11/3
SAT.	10:03	10:31	10:41	11:08	10:35	11:16	11:23	—	12:55	1:11	1:02	1:20	10:01	10:30	11/4
SUN.	10:58	11:30	11:37	—	11:36	—	12:06	12:21	1:46	2:04	1:55	2:15	10:57	11:28	11/5
MON.	11:58	—	12:09	12:36	12:18	12:37	1:08	1:23	2:44	3:05	2:53	3:17	11:57	—	11/6
TUE.	12:34	12:59	1:15	1:41	1:20	1:39	2:12	2:30	3:51	4:16	3:57	4:22	12:32	12:59	11/7
WED.	1:39	2:03	2:25	2:50	2:21	2:41	3:19	3:41	5:24	5:57	5:03	5:30	1:35	2:03	11/8
THUR.	2:44	3:08	3:34	3:57	3:24	3:45	4:24	4:47	6:48	7:20	6:08	6:37	2:38	3:04	11/9

HOW TO USE TIDE TABLES:

To compute the high tide for the area you wish to fish, simply find the closest area on the conversion tables. Add or subtract the hours and minutes as indicated from that areas station above. Example: "Shinnecock Inlet.....—0 50" is listed under "On SANDY HOOK." —0 50 means you subtract 50 minutes from the times given for the SANDY HOOK STATION for the day you are going fishing. This is the approximate time for the high tide in the area. For low tide, add 6 ½ hours to this figure.

On SANDY HOOK

STATEN ISLAND	+ 0 27
ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS	—0 01
Red Bank, Navesink R.I.	+ 0 48
Long Branch	+ 0 34
SHARK RIVER INLET	—0 18
Shark River Basin	+ 0 27
MANASQUAN INLET	—0 12
Seaside Park	—0 33
Mantoloking Bridge	+ 5 34
TOMS RIVER	+ 4 37
Waretown	+ 2 33
BARNEGAT LIGHT	—0 20
Manahawkin Bridge	+ 2 33
Beach Haven	+ 1 47
LITTLE EGG INLET	—0 01
Seven Islands	+ 0 12
Graveling Point	+ 1 05
Mullica River	+ 1 55
Grassy Bay	+ 1 08
ABSECON INLET	+ 0 14
Atlantic City Pier	—0 26
Gt. Egg Harbor Inlet	+ 0 12
GREAT EGG HARBOR	+ 0 46
CORSON INLET	+ 0 09
TOWNESEND INLET	+ 0 06
HEREFORD INLET	+ 0 02
Grassy Sound Bridge	+ 0 45
Cape May Harbor	—0 02
Rehoboth Beach	—0 07
INDIAN RIVER INLET	+ 0 14
SHINNECOCK INLET	—0 50
Shinnecock Bay	+ 1 25
East Quogue	+ 2 45
Shinnecock Canal	+ 1 18
Indian Reservation	+ 3 05
MORICHES INLET	—0 56
Smith's Point	+ 3 28
Harts Cove	+ 1 30
Potunck Point	+ 3 35
Mastic Beach	+ 3 28
FIRE ISLAND INLET	—0 38
Democrat Point	—0 38
Coast Guard Station	—0 19
Fire Island Light	+ 0 47
GREAT SOUTH BAY	
Sayville	+ 3 39
Heckscher State Pk.	+ 3 20
Bay Shore	+ 2 23
Babylon	+ 2 12
Amityville	+ 2 21
JONES INLET	—0 19
Zachs Bay	+ 1 25
Seaford Harbor	+ 2 05
Freeport Creek	+ 0 34
E. ROCKAWAY INLET	—0 06
Long Beach Bridge	+ 0 19
ROCKAWAY INLET	—0 00
Beach Ch. Bridge	+ 0 38
JFK Airport	+ 0 26

On BRIDGEPORT

Lloyd Point	+ 0 08
Cold Spring Harbor	+ 0 08
Bayville Bridge	+ 0 13
Eatons Neck Point	+ 0 03
Northport Bay	+ 0 03
Norwalk Islands	+ 0 10
Smithtown Bay	—0 03
Cranes Neck Point	+ 0 05
Port Jefferson Harbor	+ 0 03
New Haven Harbor	+ 0 08
Mount Sinai Harbor	—0 08
Herod Point	—0 07
Mattituck Inlet	+ 0 19
Horton Point	—0 20
Truman Beach	—0 42
Falkner Island	—0 13
Sachem Head	—0 10
Branford Harbor	—0 07
New Haven Harbor	—0 08
Milford Harbor	—0 07
Stratford	+ 0 27
Shelton	+ 1 36
Black Rock Harbor	—0 03
Saugatuck River	—0 01
South Norwalk	+ 0 10
Greens Ledge	—0 01
Stamford	+ 0 04
Cos Cob Harbor	+ 0 06
Greenwich	+ 0 02

On NEW LONDON

Orient Point	+ 0 27
Little Gull Is. (Race)	+ 0 12
Greenport	+ 1 04
Southold	+ 1 43
New Suffolk	+ 2 26
South Jamesport	+ 2 32
Shinnecock Canal	+ 2 33
Noyack Bay	+ 2 05
Sag Harbor	+ 0 59
Gardiners Bay	+ 0 21
Promised Land	—0 14
Montauk Inlet	—0 25
Montauk Point	—1 13
Niantic	+ 1 20
Stonington	—0 33
Noank, Mystic River	—0 23
THAMES RIVER	
Smith Cove	—0 01
Norwich	+ 0 09
CONNECTICUT RIVER	
Saybrook jetty	+ 1 10
Lyme	+ 1 24
Essex	+ 1 38
East Haddam	+ 2 41
Higganum Creek	+ 2 54

On WILLETS PT.

Little Neck Bay	—0 10
Execution Light	—0 06
Manhasset Bay	—0 01
Hempstead Harbor	—0 11
City Island	—0 03
Rye Beach	—0 28
Port Chester	—0 09
Mamaroneck	—0 08
New Rochelle	—0 24
Davids Island	—0 02

On B'WATER HB.

CAPE MAY POINT	—0 10
Miami Beach	+ 1 17
East Point	+ 0 53
Egg Island Point	+ 0 33
Cape Henlopen	—0 05
ROOSEVELT INLET	+ 0 09
Mispillion River Ent.	+ 0 33
St. Jones River Ent.	+ 0 57

On NEW YORK

Jersey City	+ 0 07
Geo. Washington Br.	+ 0 46
Spuyten Duyvil	+ 0 58
Ossining	+ 1 53
Peekskill	+ 2 24
West Point	+ 3 16
Newburg	+ 3 42

On NEWPORT

Sakonnet	—0 10
Tiverton	+ 0 21
Beavertail Point	—0 02
Prudence Is., Sandy Pt.	+ 0 10
Bristol	+ 0 10
Warren	+ 0 21
Nayatt Point	+ 0 12
Pawtucket	+ 0 21
East Greenwich	+ 0 16
Wickford	+ 0 12
Narragansett Pier	—0 08
Point Judith Harbor	—0 07
BLOCK ISLAND	
Great Salt Pond	+ 0 05
Old Harbor	—0 14
Watch Hill Point	+ 0 44

SUNRISE/SUNSET

11/2	6:34	4:53
11/7	6:40	4:47
11/12	6:46	4:42
11/17	6:52	4:38
11/22	6:58	4:34
11/27	7:04	4:31

PHASES OF THE MOON

NEW	1st Qtr.	FULL	2nd Qtr.
11/30	11/7	11/14	11/22

The Original Knight
SOLUNAR TABLES
When To Fish Or Hunt

The schedule of solunar periods for the following week as printed below has been taken from the original Knight Solunar Tables. Plan your day so that you will be fishing good areas during these times when the fish should be most active. The tables are not a guarantee you will catch fish, however.

The major periods begin at the time shown and last for an hour-and-a-half or two hours thereafter, and are in the bold type face. The minor periods are shorter in duration and lighter type.

	AM		PM	
	Minor	**Major**	Minor	**Major**
Thurs.	5:05	**11:55**	5:40	—
Fri.	6:05	**12:25**	6:35	**12:55**
Sat.	7:10	**1:30**	7:40	**2:00**
Sun.	8:15	**2:30**	8:40	**3:00**
Mon.	9:15	**3:35**	9:45	**4:05**
Tues.	10:20	**4:35**	10:45	**5:05**
Wed.	11:20	**5:25**	11:35	**5:50**
Thurs.	—	**6:15**	12:05	**6:40**